

Acts 5:12-42 The Church of Jesus Christ is an UNSTOPPABLE FORCE.

Do you like words – I like words – Hear a new word
Use it all the time – in sentences.

A) Here is a great word – Unstoppable

B) March Madness – UnConn women – 72 game win streak – **Unstoppable**

1) Kobe on a Role – Unstoppable

C) *Unstoppable* is the word that comes to mind when you look at the early days of the [Christian church](#).

1) Conflict and controversy threatened to take the young group down,

D) But instead of killing it, the challenges fueled the fire that spread across the first-century landscape.

The Church of Jesus Christ became an unstoppable force in the World.

Last week finished Ch. 4 saw the church was growing – but continued to Dwell in Unity – One Accord –

A) Three Greats about the Church: Great Power Great Grace – Great Fear –

B) **Understandable** – after the Ananias and Saphira thing.

1) People were talking – {Did you hear about....

Pick up today v.12 – Make our way thru the rest of the chapter and make comments – final thoughts

12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. 13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

People held the early church in high esteem.

A) There weren't real quick to join them. There wasn't any looky lu's – coming to check it out

B) V.14 says **believers** were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

1) Those who joined **became believers**

C) This is the first time, Luke mentions the salvation of women.

D) Both in his Gospel and in Acts, Luke has a great deal to say about women and their relationship to Christ and the church.

There are at least a dozen references in Acts to women, as Luke shows the key role women played in the apostolic church.

A) This is a remarkable thing when you consider the general position of women in the culture of that day

B) Degraded – thought to be lesser person – Jesus elevated the status of women

So the Lord was continuing to move in the Life of the early Church – Growing – exciting

A) God was **validating his work** and the message of the Apostles – by the miraculous.

15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

B) Peter's shadow was not powerful in and of itself.

1) It was simply a point of contact and a place of release for people pp's faith – those who were prepared to receive healing.

Bb) Laying on of hands – Elders

C) End of V.16 All were healed { Great move of God

D) Imagine the excitement – But not everyone was excited.

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, {Violent Jealousy} The kind that makes pp do crazy things

18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

So all the Apostles get arrested here!

A) Think about this: Were the apostles doing anything wrong?

B) Was God unhappy with them?

1) Had they failed in some way? Were they doing it wrong?

C) No they were perfectly in God's will.

1) They were facing opposition

Lesson: Harmony is not always blessing and Opposition is not failure.

Everything is harmonious right now in our house God is really blessing us – there is peace.

A) That might be true: But you could also be experiencing the peace of a Draft dodger.

Aa)**Peace by avoiding the battle** – peace by avoiding what needs to be dealt with – peace by avoiding saying what needs to be said.

B)**Harmony is not always blessing and opposition is not always an indication of failure**

C)**Just because you are being opposed and put down for the truth doesn't mean God is not blessing.**

D)**The Enemy was seeking to Muzzle the message.**

1)**But God would not have it!**

19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out,

A)**The enemy was seeking to MUZZLE the message – so God sends an Angelic MESSENGER to show the Apostles – that is not possible.**

B)**God was teaching the 12 that he can deliver his servants from the world's oppression anytime he sees fit.**

1)Later Peter Acts 12 / Paul Silas Acts 16

C)**The apostles now knew that God could deliver them from the world's clutches anytime, anywhere!**

2 Timothy 2:9 "The word of God is not bound."

Man cannot stop the word of God – man cannot stop the Power of God.

The Church of Jesus Christ is an unstoppable force!

Not only were the Apostles Divinely delivered they were Divinely Commissioned.

The Angel said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

A)**I wonder if one of them wanted to say: Excuse me – but don't you know – that is how we got here –**

B)**We were preaching about Jesus in the temple – sure you want us to go back?**

Notice also the angel says – Go back and speak ALL the words....

A)**Not a time to change the message Don't lower the flag. Don't soften the message.**

B)**Don't get strategic or subtle or clever. Just get back to work, boys.**

C)**Speak all – Why? Because they were speaking the words of Life.**

"All the words of this life"

A)**I like that phrase! You see, we're not just talking about future life, afterlife, or eternal life.**

B) Jesus said, **“I have come that you might have life now and have it more abundantly”** (see John 10:10).

C) Quality of life that starts right now!

1) People are searching for life.

D) Peter would later write that **“God has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness through knowledge of Jesus.”** (2 Peter 1:3).

1) It's all in the Word. It is all related to our relationship with Christ.

So the Angel instructs them to get back to work – how would they respond?

21 And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught.

Note that: They entered into the temple early in the morning.” I like that! It doesn't say, “

A) They went into the temple the first chance they had,” or “They waited until noon.”

B) No, following their release from prison the night before, the apostles headed straight for the temple early the next morning.

C) Do you know what the Largest nation in the world is today? procrasti-nation.

D) It is true: Our tendency is to say: I will take care of it tomorrow. I will deal with that next time

1) How many of you have at least one thing – You have been procrastinating about?

Procrastination may not be a big deal when it relates to things of everyday life. {Marriage

A) But Procrastination is a real problem in our spiritual life.

B) Procrastination stifles the work of God in our lives!

1) Do the next thing!

C) Quit worrying about 5 yrs from now – just do the next thing

1) Do what God is telling you to do now!

D) More doors will open

I read of one very wealthy inventor who said,

“Without exception, after I have invented something and patented it, at least ten men come to me and say,

“I thought of that a long time ago.”

But the difference between their poverty and my wealth is that they thought about it, and I did it.”

The same thing is true spiritually. Rich in the Lord

A)When the Lord speaks to your heart, be it in Bible study, in devotions, through a book you read, or through a sister or brother,

B)Learn to respond immediately.

1)When you do the Lord will speak more often – open more doors

C)R –U Waiting for God to speak or open a door – He is saying I am still waiting for you to follow thru on what I instructed you last week.

D)So the Apostles went to the Temple immediately the next morning.

What happens next is Hilarious {Love it

V.21b But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, High priest shows up with his entourage and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported,

Came and reported: I have 3 pieces of good news and one piece of bad news – which do you want first

Good news first

23 saying, " we found the prison {good

The doors were shut securely, {great

the guards standing outside before the doors; {excellent

Now the bad news:

but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" The prisoners were not there

24 Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be.

Poor Translation – not strong enough at all.

Perplexed - frantic – freaking out

These officials were greatly disturbed. they wondered “What next?”

Who are we dealing with?

“Where’s this thing going to go? Where’s it going to stop?” Good question!

Then V.25 this guy comes cruising in – how would you like to be this guy.

25 So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison { guess where they are at? They are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

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26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned.

Can you picture this scene:

A) They approach all gingerly - Excuse us – we would like to speak to you guys again – is that ok – could you please come with us.

B) We want to talk to you – just not in front of everyone else

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?"

The High priest says – look we didn't tell you that you couldn't speak – We simply told you that you couldn't speak about someone.

A) There was a particular name you were not to use

B) The High Priest doesn't want to say the name

1) Doesn't want to say JESUS

C) It is all about the name { Pattern

Acts 2:38 : Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;"

Acts 3:6 "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Acts 4:10 "...that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole."

Acts 4:18 "So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus."

Acts 5:40 Don't speak in that name.

It is all about the name of Jesus

A) Even today – talk religion – Fine – ok just about anything – just don't bring up the name of Jesus

B) **Your family** : talk crystals new age – whatever – { Good for you – You believe in Something

C) Swear word: Oh Budda – Oh Mohammed – Oh Hari Krishna – Krishna

1) The name of Jesus – Satan wants to de-emphasize Power in that name

V.28b And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine

A) What a wonderful indictment!

The name: Their Doctrine was about Jesus

Notice the question they asked: Do you *intend to bring this Man's blood on us!*"

A) Matthew 27:25 {These very leaders shouted to Pilate let his blood be upon us and our Children – now they are having 2nd

B) Yet here they are complaining because they're being made to feel guilty & responsible for the death of Jesus.

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

A) There was only one in the audience that they were concerned with pleasing and that was God.

B) With that type of conviction they were an unstoppable force.

C) There is a place for peaceful Civil Disobedience

D) Good advice for simply – living – Obey God than man.

1) Boyfriend – sex - Boss lie / friends party –

E) **Fear of God beg.... Fear of man snare**

1) Fear of God – Don't want to hurt him

Quit talking about that name!

Peter continued V. 30 **The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."**

God honored Jesus but you want us to dishonor him? A) The fact that Jesus Christ is at God's right hand is a key theme in the Scriptures.

B) The right hand is, of course, the place of honor, power, and authority.

1) The Scriptures make numerous references to Him being at that Place.

C) Also worth noting that in his second sermon, Peter had called Jesus "the Prince of life" (Acts 3:15); and here he called Him "a Prince and a Saviour."

The word *Prince* means "a pioneer, one who leads the way, an originator."

A) As the "Pioneer of life," Jesus saves us and leads us into exciting experiences as we walk "in newness of life" (Romans. 6:4).

B) There are always new trails to blaze.

Hebrews 2:10 calls Him “the Pioneer [captain] of our salvation,” for our salvation experience must never become static.

“The Christian life is not a parking lot; it is a launching pad!” Warren Wiersbe

It is not enough just to be born again; we must also grow spiritually and make progress in our walk.

Peter once again called the leaders to repentance

A) Forgiveness & the gift of the HS comes with Repentance of sins

B) Repentance = to change your mind - direction

33 When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them. 34 Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while.

A) Due to his knowledge of the law and because he walked with great integrity in his attempt to keep the law,

B) Gamaliel was called “The Beauty of the Law” by his contemporaries.

1) A brilliant thinker and one of the most influential teachers in all of Jewish history,

C) Gamaliel mentored Saul of Tarsus – Paul the ...

35 And he said to them: "Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men.

36 For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. 37 After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed.

Guys we have seen this before – they come and they go

38 And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; 39 but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it — lest you even be found to fight against God."

Literally – You become a God fighter

Don't commend Gamaliel

If Gamaliel was really afraid of fighting against God, why did he not honestly investigate the evidence, diligently search the Scriptures, listen to the witnesses, and ask God for wisdom?

God is using Gamaliel to open an incredible door for the gospel.

40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, Beat with Rods – Suffering today they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

A) That last line is so convicting – rejoicing – counted worthy to suffer for THE NAME.

B) They were rejoicing that they were able to partake in the fellowship of Christ suffering – they wanted to know a little better what he went thru

C) We shrink – back – we don't want to be looked at the wrong way.

The Church of Jesus Christ is an Unstoppable force in the world.

Look at v.32 again – HS given to those who obey him

A) This is the key – made the church unstoppable force.

B) Peter filled with the HS / John Filled

1) Difference From Calvary to Pentecost

Filled with the Spirit the Church of Jesus Christ is an unstoppable force in the world.

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 5:42 summarized the apostolic pattern for evangelism, an excellent pattern for us to follow.

Closing note 5 points

1. To begin with, they witnessed “daily.”

A) Witnessing is not just something we go and do

Go witnessing

B) We are to be a witness – Pray each day Lord give me an opportunity –

1) If you are praying in that way – He will – You will start to notice opportunities you never saw before.

2. The believers witnessed “in the temple.”

A) To witness = to testify : Testifying of Jesus in the temple –

B) Jesus is to be the focus of the Church.

1) What is Jesus doing? Sharing – teaching

3. The early Christians also witnessed “in every house.”

A) Jesus is to be the focal point in our homes.

B) Kids – what is Jesus doing.

C) Face booking – Jesus Post

4. The witness of the church included both “teaching and preaching.” and that is a good balance.

A) The word translated “preach” gives us our English word *evangelize*, and this is the first of fifteen times it is used in Acts.

B) However, proclamation must be balanced with instruction so that the sinners know *what* to believe and the new converts understand *why* they believed.

5. Finally, it was Jesus Christ who was the center of their witness.

A) Not Church -not the Apostles – Not a Pastor

B) They were all about the name of Jesus.

Winston Churchill once defined a fanatic as someone who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

That's what these guys did. They wouldn't change their minds, and they didn't change the subject. Knowing Jesus is Lord, they kept talking about Him wherever they went.