



**Jesus, Our Champion**  
**Acts 5:17-42**

---

**Curt Deming**  
**Melbourne Community Church**  
**September 25, 2016**



**Tertullian:**

---

**“The blood of the martyrs is  
the seed of the church.”**

## Celebrities vs. heroes:

---

- ❖ Celebrities are surrounded by crowds, but heroes sometimes have to stand alone.
- ❖ Celebrities consult focus groups, but heroes consult their consciences / principles.

# Our heroic Savior:

---

- ❖ Character > appearance
- ❖ Fidelity to truth > desires of your heart
- ❖ Heroes = substitutes

# A Spirit-filled church

---

- ❖ Devoted to the apostles' teaching
- ❖ Devoted to fellowship
- ❖ Devoted to “the breaking of bread”
- ❖ Devoted to prayer

# Shaken, Not Shaken

---

- ❖ The Apostles were shaken by God.
- ❖ They were not shaken by circumstances.

## Acts 5:17-18

---

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

# Religio-political parties:

---

- ❖ Saducees
- ❖ Pharisees
- ❖ Essenes
- ❖ Zealots



## Acts 5:19-20

---

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

## Jail miracles in Acts:

---

- ❖ Acts 5:17-20 (the apostles)
- ❖ Acts 12:6-10 (Peter)
- ❖ Acts 16:26-27 (Paul and Silas)

## Acts 5:21-22

---

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin — the full assembly of the elders of Israel — and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there.

## Acts 5:22-24

---

So they went back and reported, “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

## Acts 5:25-26

---

Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

## Acts 5:27-28

---

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

A photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a desk or table. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Can't say "Jesus"

---

- ❖ "this name"
- ❖ "this man's blood"

## Acts 5:29-30

---

**Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead — whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.**



## Acts 5:31-32

---

“God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

## Acts 5:33-34

---

When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.



## Gamaliel:

---

- ❖ Student of Hillel
- ❖ Teacher of Saul/Paul

## Acts 5:35-36

---

Then he addressed the Sanhedrín: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.

## Acts 5:37

---

“After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.”

# Luke vs. Josephus?

---

- ❖ Was Luke mistaken?
- ❖ Was Josephus mistaken?
- ❖ Were these common names of rebel leaders?

## Acts 5:38-39

---

**“Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”**

## Acts 5:40

---

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.



## Acts 5:41-42

---

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

## Matthew 5:11-12

---

[Jesus]: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



## Never stop:

---

- ❖ Teaching
- ❖ Proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Messiah

## Repetition in Peter's speech:

---

- ❖ We must obey God rather than human beings.
- ❖ You killed Jesus, but God raised him.
- ❖ You shamed Jesus, but God exalted him.
- ❖ We are witnesses of these things.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is bearing witness through miracles.



## Acts 5:31

---

God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

# Jesus, our "Archehos"

---

- ❖ **author** of life (Acts 3:15)
- ❖ **Prince** (Acts 5:31)
- ❖ **pioneer** of their salvation (Hebrews 2:12)
- ❖ **pioneer** and perfecter of faith  
(Hebrews 12:2)



## Walter Truett Anderson:

---

“We do not need one dominant authority structure telling all our inner voices to shut up ...”

# Our heroic Savior:

---

- ❖ Character > appearance
- ❖ Fidelity to truth > desires of your heart
- ❖ Heroes = substitutes



A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together, resting on an open book. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The book is open, showing two pages, and is positioned in the lower half of the frame. The background is blurred, suggesting a desk or study area. The overall lighting is soft and natural.

**Thomas Carlyle:**

---

**“No man is a hero to his valet.”**



## Acts 5:32

---

[Peter to Sanhedrín]: “We are witnesses of these things.”

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the text overlaid on the image.

## Luke 22:42

---

[Jesus]: “Father, if you are willing,  
take this cup from me; yet not my will,  
but yours be done.”

## Matthew 26:53-54

---

[Jesus to Peter]: “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

## Acts 5:31

---

[Peter to Sanhedrin]: “God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.”

## Hebrews 12:1

---

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

## Hebrews 12:1-2

---

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Hebrews 12:3

---

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.





## Helen H. Lemmel:

---

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.”

# Jesus, our Champion:

---

- ❖ Character > appearance
- ❖ Fidelity to truth > desires of your heart
- ❖ Heroes = substitutes



# Are you being called?

---

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper