

Class 5 Notes

Acts Chapter and verse:

4.3,4 They suffered imprisonment that 5000 might be converted. **Evangelization!**

4.8,10 Many bad deeds are done falsely in the name of God. Peter wants to make sure that he is being a faithful servant, making it clear that this was a good deed and that therefore, it was done by the Lord.

4.12 There is salvation in no other but Jesus

4.13 Sts. Peter and John's lack of theological training (in contrast to the Jewish Council's complete theological training) was of no avail, for Christ was with them and they spoke being "filled with the Holy Spirit" (4.8)

4.14,17 Seeing the man truly healed, a good supernatural act which could have come from God alone, they could say nothing.

4.18-20 This also must be our attitude, that we also cannot help but speak the things that we have seen and heard. It is the duty of every Orthodox Christian.

4.21 The result of any evangelistic message or act is the glorification of God.

4.24ff They raised their voice "with one accord" to God-liturgical prayer.

4.31-32 Those who faithfully pray in assembled prayer speak the word of God with boldness are filled with the Holy Spirit, having communion with God and one another.

4.33 The Apostolic witness of the Resurrection brings grace upon all

4.34-37 The faithful who have provide for the teachers of the Church and for those who are in need.

5.1ff Those who hold back and deceive, as if they have given more than they have, shall be made accountable.

5.3-4 Whatever is presented to those of Apostolic office is presented to the Holy Spirit. Ananias did not have faith in this truth. To disrespect those entrusted with the Apostolic office is to disrespect God.

5.4 "you have not lied to men, but to God," is one of the Scriptural texts that affirm that the Holy

Spirit is God.

5.8-9 The sin was to lie about how much it was sold for.

5.12 Many signs were done, and they were "all with one accord," a favorite observance of Luke in Acts, to testify that those who are of a conciliar mind are blessed, and those of an anti-conciliar attitude are anathema.

5.15-16 These peoples faith that the shadow of Peter might come upon them is like that of the woman's who touched the robe of the Lord, and "they were all healed" because of their faith, as the Lord said, "woman, your faith has healed you."

5.17-27 The Apostles were arrested, but the angel of the Lord freed them so that they might preach in the temple.

5.28-29 They had commanded them earlier not to speak of Jesus again (4.17). But similar to the response given earlier, the Apostle's tell the council "we must obey God rather than men." Their office is greater and has superceded that of the Jewish council.

5.33 As they plotted to kill the Lord, they plot to kill Peter.

5.38-39 If the preaching of Jesus "is of men, it will come to nothing, but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it," hence the birth of Orthodox Christian 'triumphalism.' There are some forms of 'triumphalism' which are illegitimate, but some which are born from Scriptural times, which we see here--Orthodox Christianity will triumph and overcome, because it is of God. Therefore, we do not have pride in anything of man, but of God. Therefore, the good form of celebrating triumph is this: giving glory to God for all gracious things that He has given us, for granting "victory to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries," and for preserving His commonwealth, His very habitation.

5.41-42 They felt privileged to suffer for Jesus' name, and did not cease teaching that Jesus is the Christ.

6.1ff Legitimate complaint and Apostolic response

6.3-4 &ff The duty of the Apostolic office is prayer and ministry "of the word." Therefore, the 1st 7 deacons were chosen for more specific ministry to the people.

6.14 As did Jesus before him, Stephen prophesied the destruction of the temple, which occurred in 70 AD.

6.15 radiance exudes from Stephen's face, as it did for many saints down to our day.