

Acts 4 & 5

Read the chapters and write a brief summary.

Acts 4 & 5 reveal Satan's attacks on the church, both externally and internally. We see the beginning of persecution directed toward the church. Peter and John take the brunt of the hostility and conduct themselves with honor. Instead of being intimidated by it, they stood firm in the faith. The church also grappled with sin among the disciples; something that was not tolerated.

Question and Discussion

1. Why were the apostles detained by the Jews (4:1-4)? What is shocking about this?
2. What key fact did Peter declare to the council and how did they react (4:8-22)?
3. How did the disciples respond to the persecution (4:23-37)? Why do you think they united instead of being divided?
4. Why do you think such a severe punishment was placed on Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-16)?
5. Are there limits on Acts 5:29? Explain.
6. How did the apostles react to being threatened and beaten (5:40-42)?