

Read Acts 5:33-42

33 When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them.

34 But one member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while.

35 Then he said to his colleagues, "Men of Israel, take care what you are planning to do to these men!

36 Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas, who pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, but he was killed, and all his followers went their various ways. The whole movement came to nothing.

37 After him, at the time of the census, there was Judas of Galilee. He got people to follow him, but he was killed, too, and all his followers were scattered.

38 "So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown.

39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!"

40 The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go.

41 The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.

42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

When Peter and the apostles told the leaders that they were not going to obey them and they were going to keep telling people about Jesus, how did the leaders act (v. 33)? They were mad and made plans to kill them.

Who spoke up next (v. 34)? Gamaliel. **Who Was he?** A famous Pharisee. **What did he suggest the leaders do (v. 35)?** Be careful whatever you are planning to do with the apostles.

What examples did Gamaliel give to the leaders from the past (vv. 36-37)? Some fake leaders named Theudas and Judas of Galilee had revolted against the Jewish leaders and they were killed.

What was Gamaliel's final advice to the leaders (vv. 38-39)? Just leave these men alone. If they are doing these things in their own strength they will fail. But if they are doing God's work, we won't be able to stop them and we will actually be fighting against God. **How did the leaders respond to the advice (v. 40)?** They accepted Gamaliel's advice.

What did the religious leaders do to Peter and the apostles (v. 40)? They called them back in and beat them and ordered them not to preach about Jesus any more

What did the apostles do after they were whipped (vv. 41-42)? They were celebrating that they got to suffer because they believed in Jesus and they went everywhere teaching and preaching even more about Jesus. **What was their secret? Why were they able to do this?** The power of the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 1:8.