

*Instructions
from Ruth
Acts 5:32*

Persecution Separates the *Curious*
from the *Committed*

¹²The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade.

¹³But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. ¹⁴Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women.

Acts 5:12-14^{NLT}

*If you want to be my disciple
you must hate everyone else by comparison –
your father and mother, wife and children,
brothers and sisters – yes, even your own life.
Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.*

Luke 14:26 ^{NLT}

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

2 Timothy 4:2-4^{NLT}

*¹⁵As a result of the apostles' work,
sick people were brought out into the streets
on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might
fall across some of them as he went by. ¹⁶Crowds
came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing
their sick and those possessed by evil spirits,
and they were all healed.*

Acts 5:15, 16 ^{NLT}

*We are witnesses of these things
and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God
to those who obey him.*

Acts 5:32

*²⁶But I will send you the Advocate—
the Spirit of truth. He will come to you
from the Father and will testify all about me.
²⁷And you must also testify about me because
you have been with me from the beginning
of my ministry.*

John 15:26, 27^{NLT}

*The Spirit is God's guarantee
that he will give us the inheritance he promised
and that he has purchased us to be his own people.
He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*

Ephesians 1:14^{NLT}

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Acts 5:12-14^{NLT}

Obedience to God will *Impress*
the *World*

*¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman,
“Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them
condemn you?” ¹¹“No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus
said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”*

John 8:10, 11

*³³“Then a despised Samaritan came along,
and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for
him. ³⁴Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his
wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them.
Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him
to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵The next day
he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling
him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher
than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’*

Luke 10:33-35 ^{NLT}

*⁹Don't just pretend to love others.
Really love them. Hate what is wrong.
Hold tightly to what is good.*

*¹⁰Love each other with genuine affection,
and take delight in honoring each other.*

*¹¹Never be lazy, but work hard and
serve the Lord enthusiastically.*

Romans 12:9-11 ^{NLT}

¹²Rejoice in our confident hope.

Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

*¹³When God's people are in need,
be ready to help them. Always be eager
to practice hospitality.*

Romans 12:12, 13 ^{NLT}

Obedience to God will

Bring Trials

*¹⁰Bring all the tithes into the storehouse
so there will be enough food in my Temple.
If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies,
“I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will
pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough
room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!*

Malachi 3:10

*¹¹Your crops will be abundant,
for I will guard them from insects and disease.
Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they
are ripe,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.
¹²“Then all nations will call you blessed, for your
land will be such a delight,” says the
LORD of Heaven’s Armies.*

Malachi 3:11, 12

*¹⁷The high priest and his officials,
who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.
¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the
public jail . . . ²⁷Then they brought the apostles
before the high council, where the high priest
confronted them. ²⁸“Didn’t we tell you never again
to teach in this man’s name?” he demanded.
“Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your
teaching about him, and you want to make us
responsible for his death!”*

Acts 5:17, 27,28 ^{NLT}

*²⁹But Peter and the apostles replied,
“We must obey God rather than any human
authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised Jesus
from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on
a cross. ³¹Then God put him in the place of honor at
his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so
the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be
forgiven. ³²We are witnesses of these things and so is
the Holy Spirit, who is given by God
to those who obey him.”*

Acts 5:29-32 ^{NLT}

*³³When they heard this,
the high council was furious and decided to kill them
... ^{40b}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.*

Acts 5:33, 40b ^{NLT}

*¹⁸“If the world hates you,
remember that it hated me first.*

*¹⁹The world would love you as one of its own if
you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the
world. I chose you to come out of the world,
so it hates you.*

John 15:18, 19 ^{NLT}

*"God blesses you who are hated and excluded
and mocked and cursed because you are identified
with me, the Son of Man".*

Luke 6:22 ^{NLT}

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you.

Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

¹⁵Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

Romans 12:14-16^{NLT}

*¹⁷Never pay back evil with more evil.
Do things in such a way that everyone can see you
are honorable. ¹⁸Do all that you can to live in
peace with everyone. ¹⁹Dear friends, never take
revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.
For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,” says the LORD.*

Romans 12:17-19^{NLT}

*²⁰Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame
on their heads.” ²¹Don’t let evil conquer you,
but conquer evil by doing good.*

Romans 12:20, 21 ^{NLT}

Obedience to God will
Reveal the *Divine*

¹⁷The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, ²⁰“Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” ²¹So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching.

Acts 5:17-21a^{NLT}

When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council—the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. ²²But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone.

So they returned to the council and reported, ²³“The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!”

Acts 5:21b-23 ^{NLT}

*24 When the captain of the Temple guard
and the leading priests heard this, they were
perplexed, wondering where it would all end.*

*25 Then someone arrived with startling news:
“The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple,
teaching the people!”*

Acts 5:24, 25 NLT

*³³When they heard this,
the high council was furious and decided to kill
them. ³⁴But 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.*

Acts 5:33, 34 ^{NLT}

*³⁵Then he said to his colleagues,
“Men of Israel, take care what you are planning
to do to these men! ³⁶Some 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.*

Acts 5:35, 36 ^{NLT}

³⁷After 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.

Acts 5:37, 38 ^{NLT}

*Make your motions and cast your votes,
but GOD has the final say.*

Proverbs 16:33 MSG

*The horse is made ready for the day of battle,
but victory rests with the LORD.*

Proverbs 21:31 ^{NIV}

*²³He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
²⁴No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they
sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.*

Isaiah 40:23, 24 ^{NIV}

*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body
but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the
One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Matthew 10:28^{NIV}

¹⁵So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:15-20 ^{NLT}

*¹⁶So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.
Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.*

*²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our
lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no
law against these things! ²⁴Those who belong to Christ
Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful
nature to his cross and crucified them there.*

Galatians 5:16, 22-24 ^{NLT}

*¹⁴Brothers and sisters,
we urge you to warn those who are lazy.
Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care
of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.
¹⁵See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always
try to do good to each other and to all people. ¹⁶Always
be joyful. ¹⁷Never stop praying. ¹⁸Be thankful in all
circumstances, for this is God's will for you who
belong to Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not stifle the Holy Spirit.*

1 Thessalonians 5:14-19 ^{NLT}