Acts 5:17–32 ESVUK

17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the
Sadducees), and filled with jealousy 18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the
public prison. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and
brought them out, and said, 20 "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all
the words of this Life." 21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at
daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together
the council and all the senate of the people of Israel and sent to the prison to have
them brought. 22 But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so
they returned and reported, 23 "We found the prison securely locked and the guards
standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." 24 Now
when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were
greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. 25 And someone
came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the
temple and teaching the people." 26 Then the captain with the officers went and
brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high
priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name,
yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this
man's blood upon us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God
rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging
him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give
repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things,
and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

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Is Christianity good for the world?

God's witnesses in a changed world
Acts 5:17–32

Introduction

1. God is behind the Apostolic preaching of his good news

2. Nothing can stop the Apostolic preaching of God's good news

3. The Holy Spirit empowers the Apostolic preaching of God's good news

- The raw facts

> **Deuteronomy 21:23** *cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree*

- The God given meaning

> **1 Samuel 8:20** *…but there shall be a king over us … that our king may judge us and fight our battles*

- The essential evidence

> **John 15:26–27** *…when the Holy Spirit comes…he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning*

Conclusion

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- How does what we have read help us to understand God's agenda in our home situations, amongst our families and here in the City of London?
- How does it produce confidence in us?
- What is promised for any Christian who obeys God and speaks his Gospel?
- What is it that we are meant to say (see v30–32)?

Next week: God's backing in a changed world. William Taylor speaking on Acts 5:33–42.