

# *Overcoming Opposition*



# The Parallel Polis

Act 4:32-37 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. (33) And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all...

# The Parallel Polis

Act 4:32–37 ... (34) Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, (35) and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need...

# The Parallel Polis

Act 4:32–37 ... (36) And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, (37) having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

# The Parallel Polis Endangered

Act 5:1–11 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. (2) And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet...

# Corruption Endangers the Parallel Polis

Act 5:1–11 ... (3) But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? (4) While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? **Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God...**"

# God's Judgment Protects the Parallel Polis

Act 5:1–11 ... (5) Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. (6) And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. (7) Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened...

# God's Judgment Protects the Parallel Polis

Act 5:1–11 ... (8) And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." (9) Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out..."

# God's Judgment Protects the Parallel Polis

Act 5:1–11 ...(10) Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. (11) So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

# Holy Fear in the Community Triggers Revival

Act 5:11-16 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. (12) And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. (13) Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly...

# Holy Fear in the Community Triggers Revival

Act 5:11–16 ... (14) And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, (15) so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. (16) Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

# Persecution Answered With Supernatural Power

Act 5:17-25 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, (18) and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. (19) But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, (20) "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life..."

# Human Authorities Angry God Rebuked Them

Act 5:17–25 ... (21) And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. (22) But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported,...

# Human Authorities Angry God Rebuked Them

Act 5:17-25 ...(23) saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" (24) Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. (25) So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

# The Apostles Again Brought Before the Council

Act 5:26–29 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. (27) And when they had brought them, they set them before the council...

# Obey God Rather Than Men

Act 5:26-29 ...And the high priest asked them, (28) saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" (29) But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

# The Apostles Providentially Delivered

Act 5:30–40 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. (31) Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (32) And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him..."

# The Apostles Providentially Delivered

Act 5:30–40 ...(33) When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them. (34) Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while...

# The Apostles Providentially Delivered

Act 5:30-40 ... (35) And he said to them: "Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. (36) For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing..."

# The Apostles Providentially Delivered

Act 5:30–40 ...(37) After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. (38) And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing;...

# The Apostles Providentially Delivered

Act 5:30–40 ... (39) but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God." (40) And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

# Worthy To Suffer

Act 5:41–42 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. (42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.