

# The Second Persecution of the Church (Part I): A Picture of Abuse Acts 05: 12–25

## **1 *The reasons for persecution***

- a. Performing miraculous signs and wonders
- b. Possessing a great unity
- c. Holding public worship
- d. Being separated and different from the world
- e. Reaching out and evangelizing
- f. Attracting huge crowds
- g. Meeting the needs of the public
  - 1) Physical needs
  - 2) Spiritual needs

## **2 *The persecution***

- a. By religionists and secular leaders
- b. Arrested and jailed

## **3 *The miraculous deliverance through and from persecution***

- a. God's care and deliverance

12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.

14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.

18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

<p>b. God’s purpose: Go — stand — speak</p> <p>c. The disciples’ obedience</p> <p><b>4 <i>The failure of persecution: Utter perplexity and frustration</i></b></p> <p>a. The court convened</p> <p>b. The guards found the apostles missing</p> <p>c. The persecutors were perplexed</p> <p>d. The persecutors made an unbelievable discovery</p>	<p>20 “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.”</p> <p>21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.</p> <p>21 When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin — the full assembly of the elders of Israel — and sent to the jail for the apostles.</p> <p>22 But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported,</p> <p>23 “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.”</p> <p>24 On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this.</p> <p>25 Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.”</p>
---	--