

The Second Persecution of the Church (Part II): Reasons for Remaining Loyal Acts 05:26–42

<p>1 <i>The disciples were rearrested</i></p> <p>a. Were arrested without violence</p> <p>b. Were brought to court before the ruling body of the government, the Sanhedrin</p> <p>c. Were accused with a threefold charge</p> <p>1) Breaking the law of the government</p> <p>2) Teaching a false doctrine: Stirring up the people</p> <p>3) Threatening insurrection: Falsely accusing the government of murder</p> <p>d. Were courageous in their response</p> <p>2 <i>Reason 1: God has raised up and exalted Christ</i></p> <p>a. To be a Prince and a Saviour</p> <p>b. To give repentance</p> <p>c. To give forgiveness</p> <p>3 <i>Reason 2: God has made us witnesses</i></p> <p>4 <i>Reason 3: God has a will that must be done</i></p>	<p>26 At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.</p> <p>27 Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.</p> <p>28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”</p> <p>29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!</p> <p>30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.</p> <p>31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.</p> <p>32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”</p>
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a. God's will opposed
by the unthinking men
of the world

b. God's will recognized
by the thinking men
of the world

1) Seen in the events of history
and revelation:
Theudas and Judas

2) What is not of God
will come to nothing

3) What is of God
cannot be stopped

33 When they heard this,
they were furious
and wanted to put them to death.

34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel,
a teacher of the law,
who was honoured by all the people,
stood up in the Sanhedrin
and ordered that the men be put outside
for a little while.

35 Then he addressed them:
"Men of Israel, consider carefully
what you intend to do to these men.

36 Some time ago Theudas appeared,
claiming to be somebody,
and about four hundred men rallied to him.
He was killed, all his followers were dispersed,
and it all came to nothing.

37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared
in the days of the census
and led a band of people in revolt.
He too was killed,
and all his followers were scattered.

38 Therefore,
in the present case I advise you:
Leave these men alone! Let them go!
For if their purpose or activity
is of human origin, it will fail.

39 But if it is from God,
you will not be able to stop these men;
you will only find yourselves
fighting against God."

40 His speech persuaded them.
They called the apostles in
and had them flogged.
Then they ordered them
not to speak in the name of Jesus,
and let them go.

5 Reason 4:

***God is able to deliver
through hardship***

- a. Able to stir a sense of privilege
- b. Able to stir joy
- c. Able to stir the courage
to continue teaching
and preaching

41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin,
rejoicing
because they had been counted worthy
of suffering disgrace for the Name.

42 Day after day,
in the temple courts
and from house to house,
they never stopped teaching
and proclaiming the good news
that Jesus is the Christ.