

## Pearl Harbor

Acts 5:12-41

Intro

The Pearl Harbor of the New Testament is Acts 5-8.

The war begins.

vv. 12-16 The lesson having been learned of Ananias and Sapphira, the church moves on.

v 12 God and His host, the apostles and the church become a fountain of blessing.

v 13 And yet the gap widens between Israel and church.  
Why? Jewish leadership.  
The **common man** in Israel esteems the church . . .

v 14 . . . and are drawn like moths to the light for physical and spiritual healing.

v 15 Miracles occur of such a type that there is only a precedent in those of Jesus. (Paul will do the same; 19:11-12)

v 16 And the gospel **begins to spread** beyond Jerusalem.  
How pleasant it is as God heals their land.

v 17 And yet opposition among the nation's leadership rears its head.

v 18 And so this fledgling movement must be stopped.

v 19 But the 12 are also sharers of Christ's power and assistance as well as His sufferings.

v 20 But the angel implies "We aren't criminals. We don't run."  
"Go, stand, speak of Jesus" → Angelic Homiletics

Then what will happen? No answer. Just trust God.

v 21 And so the 12 stand.

v 21b The Sanhedrin as all enemies of God are clueless and confident on the brink of disaster.

v 22-23 And suddenly are totally confounded

v 24 They instinctively fear a revolt.  
It tells you that they don't understand what Christianity truly is  
- a conversion of the soul not a liberation of society

v 25 They are fearful and subdued before their "enemy," the church.  
The apostles have won without firing a shot.

v 26 But the common man hung on every word.

v 27-28 "You disobeyed."

v 29-32 "Because God told us" . . . Here is what God did . . .

v 33 Push has come to charge

v 34f Gamaliel  
\*he has insight  
- error always implodes  
- truth does not  
- as God fights for His own

v 40 A law must be enforced so the disciples bear the mark of the Christian.  
- Stripes -

v 41 But the 12 went on glorying in their persecution.