

# Growing Witness & Opposition

Acts 3-5



# LET US PRAY | KIA IINOI TAATOU

“O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant ..... give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” (Acts 4.24b, 29-30)



# WELCOME | NAU MAI HAERE MAI

Today:

- Recap(itulation) - week three
- Acts 3-5: Growing Witness and Opposition
  - Threats, imprisonment, beatings, conflict
  - Spirit-empowered ministry and opposition to such ministry





# OVERVIEW

- **Acts 3:** Peter and John heal a lame man at the temple, then Peter preaches that the miracle comes through Jesus and calls the people to repent.
- **Acts 4:** Peter and John are arrested for preaching about Jesus, but they boldly testify before the authorities; the believers pray for courage and are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 5:** The early church grows, but Ananias and Sapphira are judged for deceit, and the apostles continue teaching and healing despite opposition.



# TERMS

## MESSIAH

Messiah means “anointed one” or “chosen one.” In Judaism, it refers to the hoped-for king sent by God; in Christianity, it refers to Jesus.



# TERMS

## SANHEDRIN

The Sanhedrin was the Jewish council or high court in first-century Jerusalem. It handled important religious and legal matters.



# TERMS

## EKKLĒSIA

Greek term - gathering of citizens

Christian term - assembly, the church



# Healing: continuity...

“The lame  
shall leap like  
a deer”  
(Isa 35.6)



# DISCUSSION (ch 3)

- How do people respond to the miracle?
- How does the beggar respond?
- How do Peter and John respond to the crowd?



# TITLES: WHO, WHAT, WHY?

- God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors
- holy, righteous one
- author of life
- Messiah
- The LORD your God
- a Prophet like me (Moses)
- God raised up his servant, Jesus,



# JEWISH RULERS (ch 4)

- Resurrection message
- Pressure to stop speaking:
  - <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him?”
  - <sup>20</sup> We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”



# Ananias & Sapphira

Acts 4.32-5.11



# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- “All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.” (4.32)
- What empowered this community?



# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- Praising God
- Signs & Wonder
- Sharing & Growth
- Frankness / Boldness
- Repentance
- Universal restoration
- Spirit-filled
- Realised prophecy



# ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA?

Barnabas v Ananias & Sapphira:

- What went wrong?
- What was the result?
- Mercy and grace? Punishment and death?



# The Sanhedrin

Acts 5.12-42





# SANHEDRIN

In Acts 5, the Sanhedrin wants to kill the disciples, and the apostles are beaten for the first time (Acts 5:40).

What do verse 17 and 28 reveal?



# GAMALIEL'S ADVICE

“So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!”



# WHAT STOOD OUT FOR YOU TODAY?

- Have a conversation with your neighbour
- Make some notes in your Bible/journal
- Share something with the group



# NEXT WEEK

Week 6: Stephen (Acts 6-7)

