



Smith Rock  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# acts

OF THE APOSTLES

Sermon notes  
and  
study guide

For the week of

7th March 2021

“Decisions, decisions”



# Decisions, decisions

Acts 5:17-41 or page 859 in a church bible.

## Main points

**1. E** \_\_\_\_\_

*14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.*

James 3:14–16 (ESV)

**2. E** \_\_\_\_\_

*17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”*

John 10:17–18 (ESV)

### **3. E** \_\_\_\_\_

*5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

James 1:5–8 (ESV)

### **4. E** \_\_\_\_\_

*12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*

1 Peter 4:12–13 (ESV)

# WHAT NEXT?



**What have you heard God say to you this morning and what are you going to do with what you heard?**

**What was the main point of the sermon?**

**What stood out for you in this text.**

**What is one thing you are going to do with what you heard this next week**

17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy 18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." 21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, 23 "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." 24 Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. 25 And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." 26 Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honour by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. 38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Acts 5:17–42 (ESV)

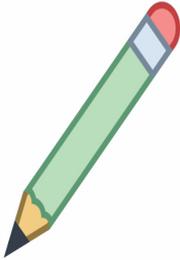
# Sermon notes

*for kids*

Favourite song today

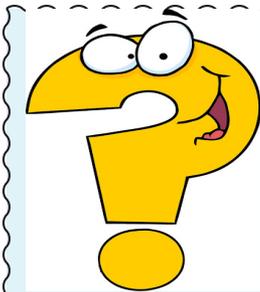
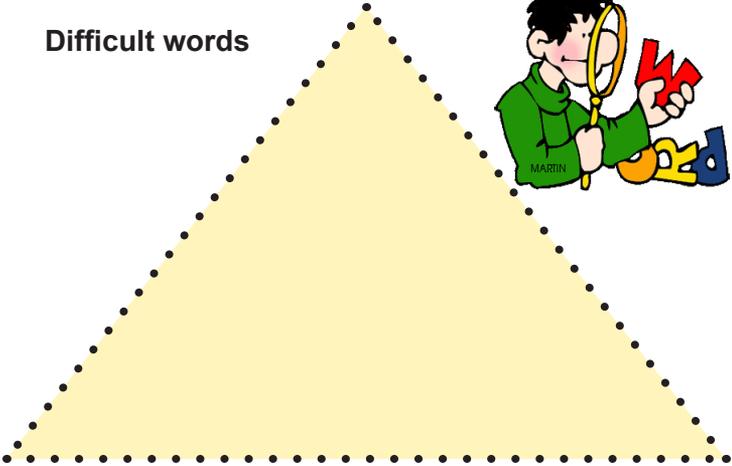


Draw a picture from the sermon

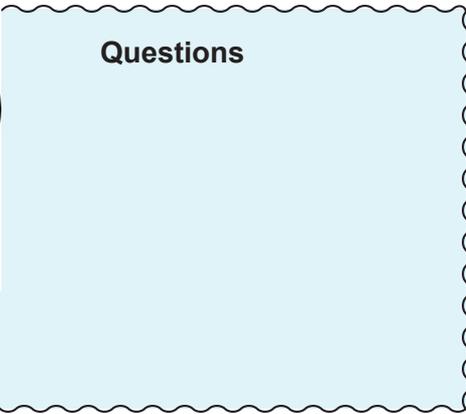


NAME OF THE BOOK

Difficult words



Questions



Today I learned

Four horizontal lines for writing, set within a light orange rectangular background.



**Further study for** *Groups and individuals*

**Review**

Look back at last week's sermon notes and take a moment to review what you wrote you were going to take action on.

How did it go? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the easiest decision you had to make today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the hardest decision you had to make today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Share one or two of the best decisions you have made in your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you feel comfortable, share a bad decision you have made. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What makes the difference between good and bad decisions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Genesis we are told about a decision Joseph's brothers made;

*18 They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."*

Genesis 37:18–20 (ESV)

What caused his brothers to feel this about Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

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Discuss the plusses and minusses of making emotional decisions. \_\_\_\_\_

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In Exodus chapter thirty two there is the story of the golden calf, and here is how Aaron explains what happened to his brother Moses;

*21 And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?" 22 And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. 23 For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall*

*go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ 24 So I said to them, ‘Let any who have gold take it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.”*

Exodus 32:21–24 (ESV)

Read 32:1, what led to Aaron making the decision to build the calf? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any outside forces that hold sway over your decisions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Bible extols the virtue of wisdom and tells us that it is found in those who have experience:

*22 Without counsel plans fail,  
but with many advisers they succeed.*

Proverbs 15:22 (ESV)

*5 A wise man is full of strength,  
and a man of knowledge enhances his might,  
6 for by wise guidance you can wage your  
war,  
and in abundance of counselors there is victory.*

Proverbs 24:5–6 (ESV)

Read 1 kings 12:1-16 and discuss why we need experience

to help make good decisions. \_\_\_\_\_

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The Sadducees had lots of “experience;” describe how it might also be a detriment in making decisions. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Apostle Paul was on his way to Jerusalem when a prophet called Agabus foretold Paul would be bound and handed over to the gentiles. His companions when they heard this pleaded with him not to go, but Paul’s response was:

*13 Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

Acts 21:13 (ESV)

Discuss Paul’s decision to to Jerusalem. \_\_\_\_\_

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Why would we make a decision to purposefully suffer? \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

At what point do we obey God rather than men? \_\_\_\_\_

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