

## **Emissaries Are Rounded Up Yet Again And Warned by the Sanhedrin**

In my last post, we learned that the **Emissaries Perform Many Signs and Miracles and Are Jailed Again**. In this post, we learn that the **Emissaries Are Rounded Up Yet Again and Warned by the Sanhedrin**.

***<sup>21b</sup> Now the Cohen HaGadol and his associates came and called a meeting of the Sanhedrin (that is, of Isra'el's whole assembly of elders) and sent to the jail to have them brought. <sup>22</sup> But the officers who went did not find them in the prison. So they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup> "We found the jail securely locked and the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened it, we found no one inside!"***

These guards are fortunate that they are **Levites** policing for the **Jewish Temple** aristocracy rather than recruits under the Romans or Herod Agrippa I, who might have executed them (see 12:18-19).

***<sup>24</sup> When the captain of the Temple police and the head cohanim heard these things, they were puzzled and wondered what would happen next. <sup>25</sup> Then someone came and reported to them, "Listen! The men you ordered put in prison are standing in the Temple court, teaching the people!"***

Such events would cause these leaders to lose face further.

***<sup>26</sup> The captain and his officers went and brought them, but not with force because they were afraid of being stoned by the people.***

The **Temple** police *were afraid of being stoned by the people* because **Yerushalayim** was responding positively to the **emissaries**. Meanwhile, the Jewish leaders saw their authority slipping away.

***<sup>27</sup> They conducted them to the Sanhedrin, where the Cohen HaGadol demanded of them, <sup>28</sup> "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this Name! Look here! you have filled Yerushalayim with your teaching; moreover, you are determined to make us responsible for this man's death!"***

At the time of **Herod Agrippa**, all but three of the seventy members of the **Sanhedrin** were **Tz'dukim**. Therefore in suppressing the Gospel the **Sanhedrin** was judging it by two Sadducee criteria: (1) it proclaimed the resurrection, which the **Tz'dukim** denied, and (2) it proclaimed "another king, **Yeshua**," which, if true, would be politically subversive, as well as destructive of the cozy, working relationship the **Tz'dukim** had with the occupying Romans.

The charge against the **emissaries** is that they are trying to incite unrest against the municipal aristocracy, which the Romans approved, by accusing them of responsibility for **Yeshua's** execution. They were more concerned about maintaining their authority than embracing the truth.

***<sup>29</sup> Kefa and the other emissaries answered, "We must obey God, not men.***

**Believers** should obey the law of the land, but when human law conflicts with **God's** law, ***we must obey God, not men.***

***<sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Yeshua, whereas you men killed Him by having him hanged on a stake. <sup>31</sup> God has exalted this man at His right hand as Ruler and Savior, in order to enable Isra'el to do t'shuvah (repentance) and have her sins forgiven. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses to these things; so is the Ruach HaKodesh, whom God has given to those who obey him." ~ Acts 5:21b-32 (CJB)***

**Kefa** never wastes an opportunity to proclaim the **Gospel**. Here he knows he must be brief, for the **Sanhedrin** will not patiently endure a sermon. Yet his message always, even to these determined opponents, is one of hope, one who offers salvation. If anything, **Kefa** stepped up the pressure on the **Sanhedrin** (and endangered himself and the others more) by declaring that they had *killed Yeshua*, whom *God has exalted this man at His right hand as Ruler and Savior*. **Kefa** and the other **emissaries** knew this to be true because they were *witnesses* of this, as was the **Ruach HaKodesh**.

In my next post, we will jump forward to Acts 8 to learn that a **Great Persecution of the Faithful Has Hit Yerushalayim**.