

Katamares: Acts: 5:12-21

5:12 *Signs and Wonders*

Earth Became a Heaven.

Chrysostom: Earth was becoming like heaven, for their way of life, boldness of speech, wonders, for all besides. Like angels were they looked upon with wonder. They were unconcerned about ridicule, threats, and perils. They were compassionate and beneficent. Some of them they helped with money, and some with words, and some with healing of their bodies and of their souls; they accomplished every kind of healing. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 12.1

5:15 *The Sick Carried into the Streets*

Manifesting the Inner Radiance.

Chrysostom: For had they not borne a king's image and their radiance been unapproachable, their garments and shadows had not wrought so mightily. For the garments of a king are terrible even to robbers. Would you see this beaming even through the body? "Looking steadfastly," he said, "upon the face of Stephen, they saw it as if it were the face of an angel." ⁷ But this was nothing to the glory flashing within. Homilies on 2 Corinthians 7.6.8

5:17 *The High Priest Rose Up*

Dejection and Gladness Interwoven.

Chrysostom: Look how their life is woven. First there was dejection because Christ was taken from them; then came joy through the descent of the Spirit; then dejection again because of the scoffers; then joy because of the believers and the sign; then dejection again because of the imprisonment, followed by joy in the result of their defense. And here again both dejection and joy: joy because they were well-known and God made revelations to them, dejection because they made away with some of them. Again, joy from their success and dejection because of the high priest. And the same pattern could be seen throughout. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 12.1

5:19 *An Angel of the Lord*

For Encouragement and Instruction.

Chrysostom: “But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, ‘Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.’ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and taught.” This was done for the encouragement of the disciples and for the benefit and instruction of the others. For notice how what Christ once did happened again here: he does not allow them to witness the miracle in action but provides that from which they may learn of it. This is what happened on the occasion of his resurrection: he did not let them see how he rose again. When wine is made from water, the guests do not see it (for they were drunk); the judgment he entrusts to others. Likewise in the present case, they do not see them being led out, but the evidence, from which they might understand what happened, they saw. And it was by night that the angel put them outside. Why? Because in this way they were more believed than they would have been otherwise. They would not have come to ask questions. They would not have believed otherwise. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 13. 4

5:21 *The Apostles Taught in the Temple*