



## #10 "PRISON BREAK!"

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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**Sermon Notes**

*I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears.  
Psalm 34:4*

### **Encouragement through the Holy Spirit Breaks us Out of PRISONS OF FEAR**

#### **I. Acts 5:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>13</sup> No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

<sup>15</sup> As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

#### **The Holy Spirit Frees us from Fear of EXPOSURE**

#### **And gives us Courage to BE FULLY KNOWN**

*For now, we can only see a dim and blurry picture of things, as when we stare into polished metal. I realize that everything I know is only part of the big picture. But one day, when Jesus arrives, we will see clearly, face-to-face. In that day, I will fully know just as I have been wholly known by God. 1 Corinthians 13:12 VOICE*

#### **II. Acts 5:17-21a**

<sup>17</sup> Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup> They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup> But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. <sup>20</sup> "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

## **The Holy Spirit Frees us from Fear of NOT BEING GOOD ENOUGH**

### **And gives us Courage to WAIT FOR VINDICATION**

*So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you. 1 Peter 5:6-7 MSG*

### **III. Acts 5:21b-28**

<sup>21b</sup> When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. <sup>22</sup> But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there...Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup> At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. <sup>27</sup> The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.

## **The Holy Spirit Frees us from Fear of PHYSICAL HARM**

### **And gives us Courage to RISK OUR LIVES**

*“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:26-28*

### **IV. Acts 5:29-42**

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!...<sup>33</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. <sup>34</sup> But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while...<sup>40</sup> His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

## **The Holy Spirit Frees us from Fear of LIFE BEING OUT OF CONTROL**

### **And gives us Courage to FIND JOY IN SURRENDER & SUFFERING**

*Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they're up against: defeat for them, victory for you—and both because of God. There's far more to this life than trusting in Christ. There's also suffering for him. And the suffering is as much a gift as the trusting. You're involved in the same kind of struggle you saw me go through, on which you are now getting an updated report in this letter. Philippians 1:27-30 MSG*