

Thought for the day – Wednesday 6th July 2022

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Acts 5 - Awe

I seem to be inadvertently doing a series on Acts! We will see how long I last; I doubt I will go through all 28 chapters of it!

Acts 5 is an action-packed chapter, which sees fear and awe envelope around the new Christian Community which began on the day of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2. Two believers die in hard-to-understand circumstances, in a shocking way. It requires careful reading. However, God is still very much in charge and the church leaders perform great signs and wonders. More and more people join the church and more and more healing take place. This in turn brings them into hot water, by the religious authorities who had put Jesus to death, but the apostles are not daunted and declare "We must obey God rather than human beings!

They are flogged and threatened and let go, but the apostles rejoice under this persecution. And they continue to proclaim the good news about Jesus, the Messiah. Oh, and there is a jail break in the middle of it!

Although there can be many pressures and challenges which face the church today, the Holy Spirit has given us gifts to serve, and witness. He also gives us the gifts of courage, boldness and focus.

It is good to pray for healing with others at Morning and Night Prayer on Zoom. I also rejoice to hear members of the congregation share how they have experienced healing at St James. May God be praised! May many more be added to our number! And may we be in awe of all the good things that God is doing at St James!

BIBLE PASSAGE: [Acts 5](#)