

Acts 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

Analysis

The intensified opposition - 'Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation' - shows success provoking hostility. The Greek 'zēlos' (indignation) can mean jealousy or righteous zeal, here clearly jealous rage at apostles' influence. Identifying opposition as 'the sect of the Sadducees' emphasizes theological motivation - resurrection preaching undermined their doctrine. The phrase 'rose up' (Greek 'anastas') suggests mobilizing for action, foreshadowing arrest.

Historical Context

Sadducees controlled temple operations and high priesthood through Roman favor. Their theological denial of resurrection, angels, and spirits made apostolic preaching existentially threatening. The high priest's leadership (likely Caiaphas) showed coordinated establishment opposition to gospel movement.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does gospel success often intensify opposition from established powers?
2. What does Sadducees' jealousy teach about religious opposition's frequent motivation?

Interlinear Text

Ἀναστὰς	δὲ	τῶν	ἀρχιερεὺς	καὶ	πάντες	τῶν
rose up	Then	(which	the high priest	and	all they	(which
G450	G1161	G3588	G749	G2532	G3956	G3588
σὺν	αὐτῷ	τῶν	οὔσα	αἵρεσις	τῶν	Σαδδουκαίων
that were with	him	(which	is	the sect	(which	of the Sadducees
G4862	G846	G3588	G5607	G139	G3588	G4523
ἐπλήσθησαν	ζήλου					
and were filled	with indignation					
G4130	G2205					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:45 (Parallel theme): But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Acts 7:9 (Parallel theme): And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

Acts 17:5 (Parallel theme): But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

1 Peter 2:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Job 5:2 (Parallel theme): For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.

Proverbs 27:4 (Parallel theme): Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

Proverbs 14:30 (Parallel theme): A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (Parallel theme): Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

Matthew 27:18 (Parallel theme): For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

John 12:10 (Parallel theme): But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;