

# Acts 5:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

## Analysis

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The council's bewilderment - 'Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow' - shows confusion at God's evident approval. The Greek 'diēporoun' (doubted) means 'thoroughly perplexed,' unable to explain or predict outcomes. Their question 'whereunto this would grow' acknowledges momentum beyond their control. Gamaliel's later speech (v. 34-39) addresses this uncertainty with wise counsel.

## Historical Context

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The leadership's perplexity reveals God's confounding wisdom over human power. Previous attempts to suppress the movement - threats (Acts 4:17), arrests, imprisonment - all failed. The supernatural prison escape forced recognition that greater power opposed them. Their question anticipates Gamaliel's warning about fighting God (v. 39).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's evident blessing on gospel ministry confound and perplex opponents?
2. What does the authorities' uncertainty 'whereunto this would grow' teach about kingdom's unstoppable advance?

## Interlinear Text

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λέγοντες ὅτι Τὸ μὲν δεσμωτήριον εὔρομεν κεκλεισμένον  
**Saying** G3754 G3588 **truly** **The prison** **found we** **shut**  
G3004 G3303 G1201 G2147 G2808

ἐν πάσῃ ἀσφαλείᾳ καὶ τοὺς φύλακας ἔξω ἐστῶτας  
**with** **all** **safety** **and** G3588 **the keepers** **without** **standing**  
G1722 G3956 G803 G2532 G5441 G1854 G2476

πρὸ τῶν θυρῶν ἀνοίξαντες δὲ ἔσω οὐδένα  
**before** G3588 **the doors** **when we had opened** **but** **within** **no man**  
G4253 G2374 G455 G1161 G2080 G3762

εὔρομεν  
**found we**  
G2147

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 2:4** (Parallel theme): He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

**Psalms 33:10** (Parallel theme): The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.