

Acts 5:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

Analysis

Gamaliel's intervention - 'Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space' - introduces providential restraint. The Greek 'nomididaskalos' (doctor of the law) indicates expert teacher. His 'reputation among all the people' gave him authority the council respected. Removing apostles allowed frank discussion. Gamaliel's wisdom, though not saving faith, served God's purposes in protecting His servants.

Historical Context

Gamaliel was Rabban Gamaliel I, grandson of Hillel, one of Judaism's most revered teachers. Paul studied under him (Acts 22:3). His moderate approach contrasted with Sadducean zealotry. Jewish tradition credits him with important legal reforms. His intervention demonstrated God's use of unlikely instruments for kingdom purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God use unlikely sources (Gamaliel's prudence without faith) to protect His purposes?
2. What does Gamaliel's reputation enabling his counsel teach about providentially-prepared influence?

Interlinear Text

ἀναστὰς	δέ	τί	ἐν	τῷ	συνεδρίῳ	Φαρισαῖος	όνόματι
stood there up	Then	a	in	G3588	the council	a Pharisee	named
G450	G1161	G5100	G1722		G4892	G5330	G3686
Γαμαλιήλ	νομοδιδάσκαλος			τίμιος		παντὶ	τῷ
Gamaliel	a doctor of the law			had in reputation		among all	G3588
G1059		G3547		G5093		G3956	
λαῷ	ἐκέλευσεν	ἔξω	βραχὺ	τί	τοὺς	ἀποστόλους	
the people	and commanded	forth	little space	a	G3588	the apostles	
G2992	G2753	G1854	G1024	G5100		G652	
ποιῆσαι							
to put							
G4160							

Additional Cross-References

Acts 22:3 (Word): I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Luke 2:46 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

Luke 5:17 (Word): And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

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