Acts 4:23-5:42

“The Distribution of Alms and Death of Ananias” by Masaccio 1425

The Believer’s Pray (4:23-31)

* What 3 descriptors do they ascribe to God?
* Psalm 2:1-2
  + What was this psalm about in its original context?
  + Do the believers quote it in that context?
  + Who is the Lord’s “anointed”? (gk: χριστος *christos*)
* v.27 – why do they list these specific people? (hint: read the Psalm again)
* v.28 – “to do whatever… your plan had predestined to occur”
* v.30 – “to speak your word with all confidence in you to extend your hand in healings and signs occurring through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
  + What did they pray for?
  + Why?
  + What happened as a result?

Anannias and Sapphira (4:32-5:12a)

* “now the full number…”
* “all things in common” (cf. 2:44)
* Particularization: 34-35>36-37
* “Lay it at the apostle’s feet” ? Why? (Exod 4:25? Josh 4:3,9? Ruth 3?)
* “With his wife’s knowledge”
* “You have not lied to men but to God”
  + “great fear came upon all who heard of it.”
* “Tell me if you sold the land for this much?”
* “She said, ‘Exactly, (*nai)* this much!’”
* “she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.”
  + “And great fear came upon the whole church and all who heard of these things.”

Apostle’s Arrested and Set Free (5:12b-25)

* All the apostles are back in Solomon’s portico
* “None of the rest dared join them” who are “the rest”?
* v.16 Remind you of anything? (Luke 4:40 and others)
* “Go stand and speak to the people in the temple all the words of this life (*zoe)*.”
* The High Priest isn’t looking in the temple.
* v.26 “they were afraid of being stoned by the people” (cf. Luke 22:2)

The Apostles the Council and Gamaliel (5:26-5:42)

* “We strictly charged you…” (4:18)
* “You intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” Whose blood?
* “and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”
* Gamaliel presents a hypothesis:
* “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be shamed for the name”
* What would they not stop doing? (v.42)