

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 5 33-42



Be still before the Lord and wait for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper as they follow their evil schemes.  
Psalm 37:7

## **Praising:**

God is working his purpose out  
as year succeeds to year:  
God is working his purpose out,  
and the time is drawing near:  
nearer and nearer draws the  
time, the time that shall surely  
be,  
when the earth shall be filled with  
the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.

## **Reading:**

Acts 5:33-42

Gamaliel speaks spiritual sense

The rabbi Gamaliel secured his place in the history books as a famously wise man. Standing back from the high emotion of the situation as the Jewish council struggle to restrain their frustration with the Jesus movement, Gamaliel points to

two other previous uprisings. Both revolts had promised much but come quickly to nothing. Gamaliel's point being, that they should allow the same thing to happen for those agitating for Jesus of Nazareth. When they crash and burn, that will prove that God was not with them. On the other hand if God blesses what they are doing, the Jews will need to have a rethink. While we might have the impression that the apostles are let off with a slap on the wrist, the word 'flogging' implies thirty-nine stripes. They still rejoice to receive them for Christ.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord to all our stresses and perplexities bring your clear, gentle word of understanding

- help us draw breath, count to ten, and ask the Spirit to come to our aid
- grant us strength to walk away rather than let emotion get the better of us
- show us your way through all our problems – walking with us as we go

Father: when the temptation to let go and lash out threatens to get the better of me, hold me back, and give me ears to hear the wisdom you will speak to me by your Spirit. Amen

## **Doing:**

Wednesday, 20 April 2016