



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Priest That Disappeared

A young woman and her boyfriend were living together. Later the young woman discovered she was pregnant. The boyfriend demanded she go to a clinic and have the child destroyed. She had been raised a Catholic, but was not practicing her religious faith. The Catholic Church protects these children and teaches this kind of conduct is a grievous sin. Nevertheless the young woman listened to her boyfriend and scheduled a time for the clinic to do the procedure.

At the clinic there was a waiting room with a lot of women waiting their turn to see the doctor and have the procedure done. This young woman turned to another young woman and said, "Are you thinking what I am thinking? Let's get out of here." They turned and immediately left.

The young woman called her boyfriend to come and pick her up. When he came it wasn't what he was expecting. She said to him, "Take me to the nearest Catholic Church that you see. Don't delay." They found a Catholic Church, she ran in and found a priest waiting there to see her. "I have sinned Father! I want to confess my sin. I almost took the life of my child." The priest said to her, "I am so proud of you! Thank you for saving the life of the child."

She repented, received forgiveness from the Lord and returned home a very happy woman.

She decided it was time to get back to church and to her faith. What better place could she go, than to the church where she met the kind and loving priest.

When she asked at the church about the priest and gave his description, no one had ever heard of this priest, ever seen the priest or ever knew anyone who met the description that this girl was inquiring about. No one had ever heard of the priest or had ever seen him!

The Bible says that angels sometimes appear in human form and do mighty works among men (Hebrews 13:2; 1:14; Acts 12:4-10). In the Old Testament even God Himself appeared in human form among men (Genesis 18). After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to some of his disciples in another form (Mark 16:12). Yes, I believe it was Jesus who appeared to this woman and said, "I am so proud of you! Thank you for saving the life of the child."

Questions

- 1** What happened in Acts 5 when the apostles were put in prison?
- 2** In Acts 5, what reason did the apostles give for their disobedience to the Jewish court?
- 3** What does God say about taking human life?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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Answer Key

1 What happened in Acts 5 when the apostles were put in prison?

“¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, ²⁰‘Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!’” (Acts 5:18-20 New Living Translation)

2 In Acts 5, what reason did the apostles give for their disobedience to the Jewish court?

“²⁷Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. ²⁸‘Didn’t we tell you never again to teach in this man’s name?’ he demanded. ‘Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!’

²⁹But Peter and the apostles replied, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority.’” (Acts 5:27-29 New Living Translation)

3 What does God say about taking human life?

“¹³Thou shalt not kill.” (Exodus 20:13 KJV)

“⁹For the commandments say, ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.’ These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ¹⁰Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.” (Romans 13:9-10 New Living Translation)