



TI  
PARE  
YA

**Big Idea:**  
**You can suffer alone and be bitter...OR...**  
**You can suffer with Jesus and be blessed.**





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## Matthew 22:29 (TLV)

Jesus said to them, “You’ve gone astray, because you don’t understand the Scriptures or the power of God.”





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## Matthew 5:10 (NLT)

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.





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## Matthew 5:11-12 (NLT)

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.





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PARADISE

## Judges 3:1-4 (NLT)

There are the nations that the LORD left in the land to test those Israelites who had not experienced the wars of Canaan. He did this to teach warfare to generations of Israelites who had no experience in battle. These are the nations: the Philistines (those living under the five Philistine rulers), all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the mountains of Lebanon from Mount Baal-hermon to Lebo-hamath.

These people were left to test the Israelites- to see whether they would obey the commands the LORD had given to their ancestors through Moses.





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## Acts 5:12-18 (NLT)

The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women.

As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by.

Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

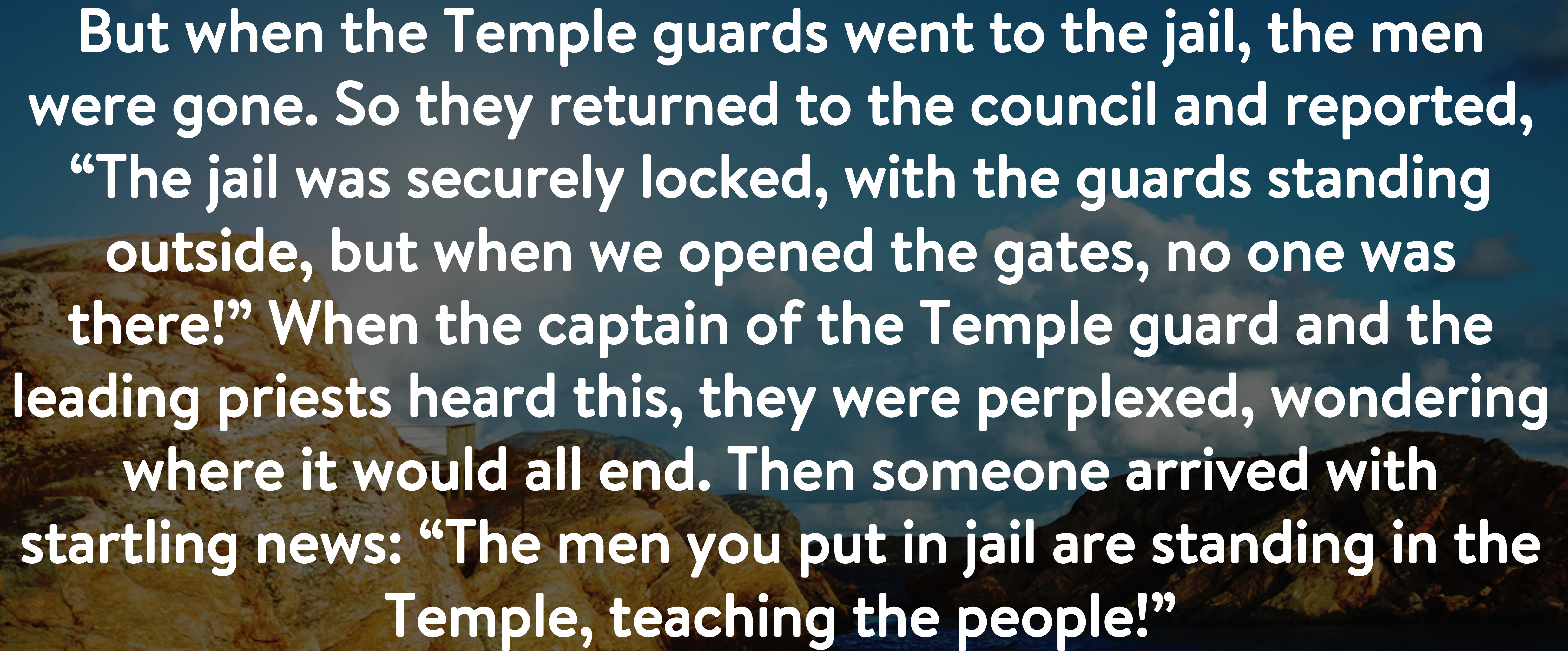


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## Acts 5:19-25 (NLT)

But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching. When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council—the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial.



A scenic background image of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, there are large, textured, light-colored rocks. In the background, there is a blue sky with some clouds and a dark blue sea. The overall scene is a coastal landscape.

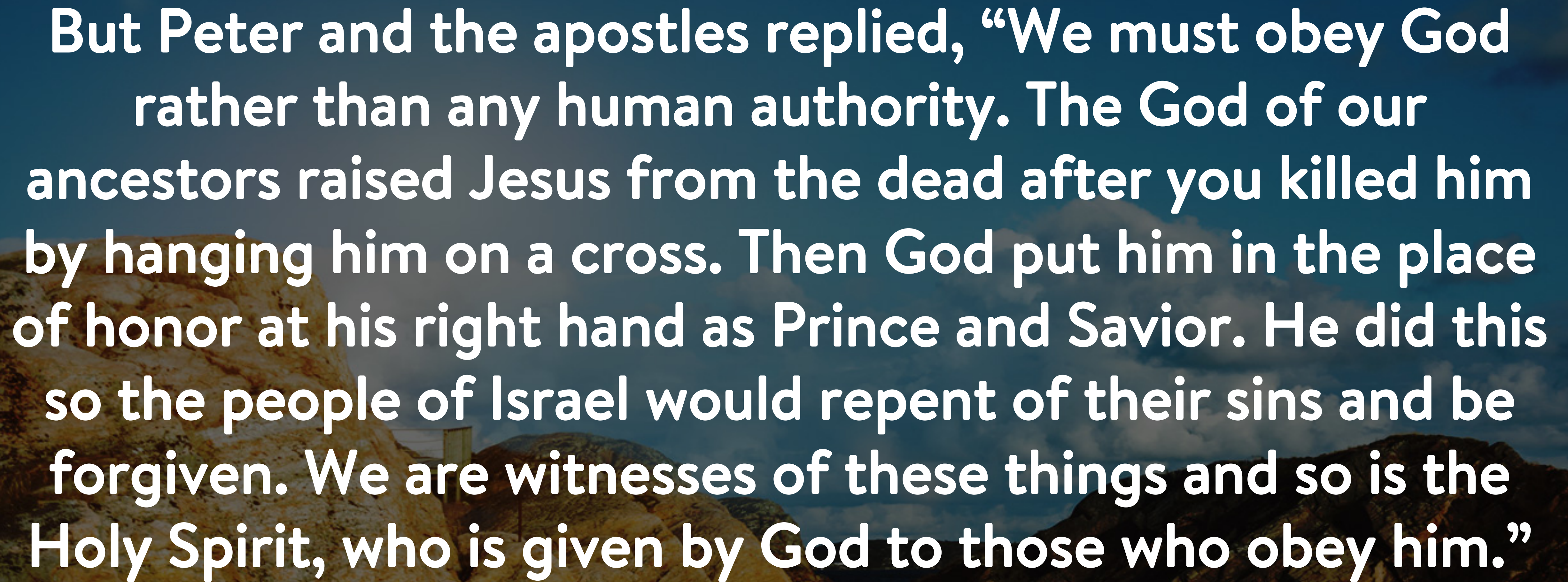
But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone. So they returned to the council and reported, “The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!” When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, they were perplexed, wondering where it would all end. Then someone arrived with startling news: “The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!”



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## Acts 5:26-32 (NLT)

The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. “We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man’s name!” he said. “Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!”

A scenic view of a rocky coastline with a blue sea and a cloudy sky. The foreground shows large, textured rocks in shades of brown and tan. The middle ground features a calm blue sea with gentle ripples. In the background, there are more rocky hills under a sky with soft, white clouds. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting.

But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him.”



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## Acts 5:40-42 (NLT)

They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: “Jesus is the Messiah.”



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