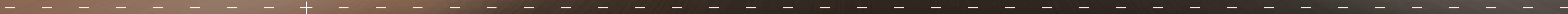
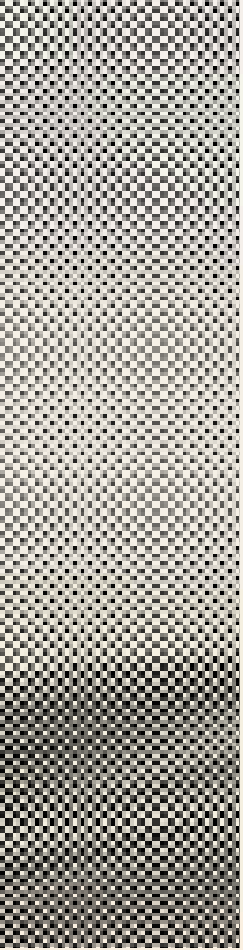


Acts.





GOD'S MISSION IS UNSTOPPABLE.

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with **jealousy.**¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.²⁰ “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

ACTS 5:17-20 NIV

- + **Deliverance**
- + Courage
- + Obedience
- + Wisdom
- + Joy in Suffering

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles.²² But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported,²³ “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.”

ACTS 5:21-23 NIV

- + Deliverance
- + **Courage**
- + Obedience
- + Wisdom
- + Joy in Suffering

On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.²⁵ Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.”²⁶ At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

ACTS 5:24-28 NIV

- + Deliverance
- + Courage
- + **Obedience**
- + Wisdom
- + Joy in Suffering

Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

ACTS 5:29-33 NIV

- + Deliverance
- + Courage
- + Obedience
- + **Wisdom**
- + Joy in Suffering

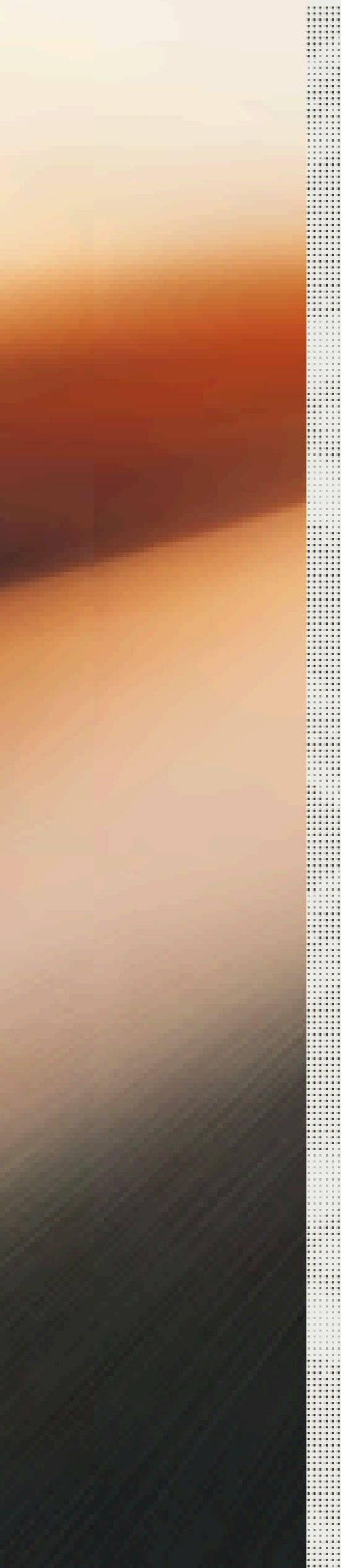
But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

ACTS 5:34-39 NIV

- + Deliverance
- + Courage
- + Obedience
- + Wisdom
- + **Joy in Suffering**

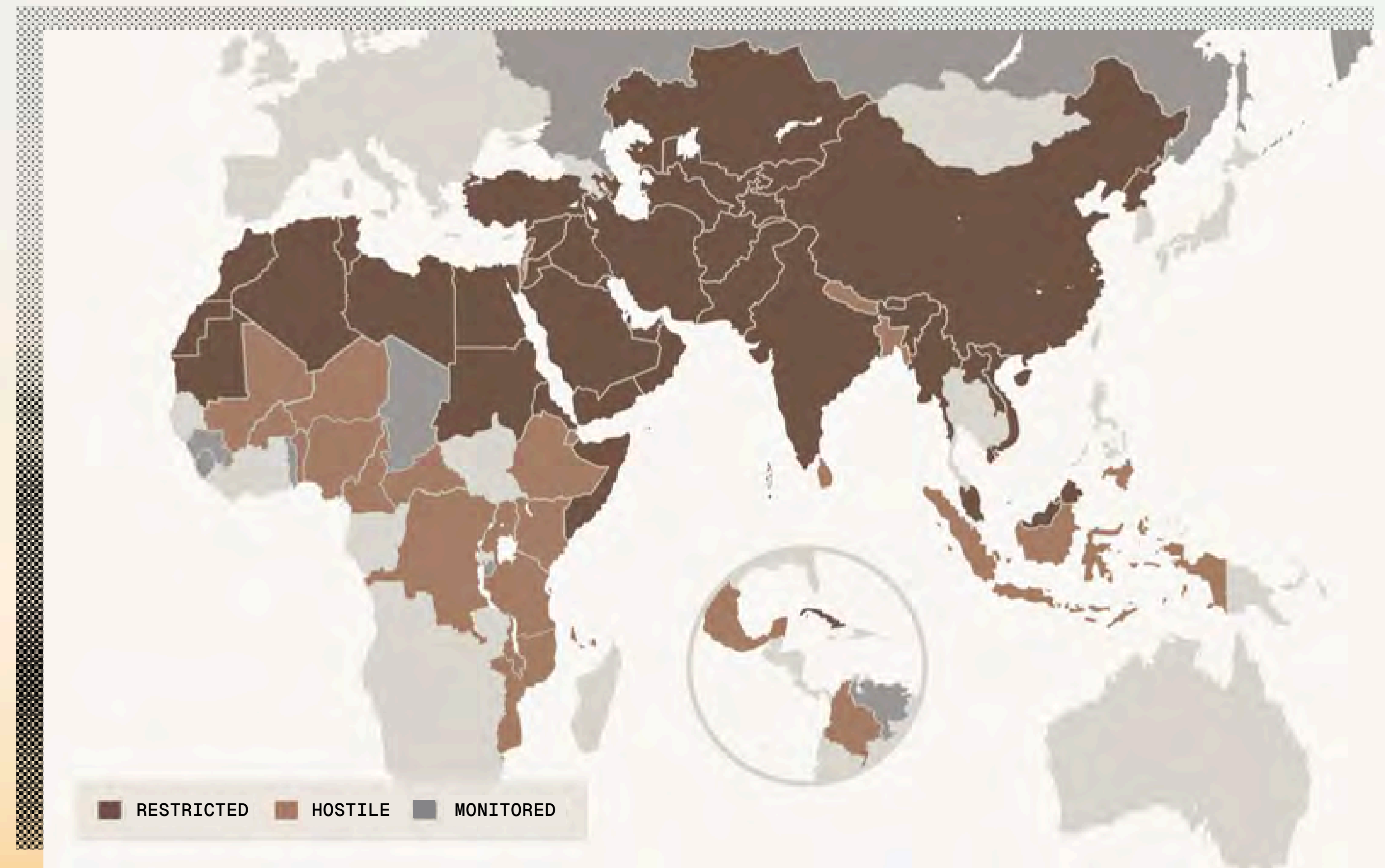
His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

ACTS 5:40-42 NIV



Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

JAMES 1:2-4 NIV



DAY OF PRAYER

For the Persecuted Church Globally

DAY OF PRAYER

Join us in praying for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

PERSECUTION IS ON THE RISE

More than 365 million Christians experience persecution and discrimination. 1 in 7 believers. According to the Pew Research Center, the number of countries where Christians are persecuted has almost doubled since 2000.

WHAT IS PERSECUTION?

Persecution takes many forms. It can be physical or emotional. It can be public or private. It can be directed at individuals or groups. It can be based on race, ethnicity, or religion. It can be based on political beliefs or social status. It can be based on anything that makes a person different from the majority.

WHY PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED?

The world's greatest need is for prayer. For the persecuted church, prayer is the most powerful weapon we have. It is the key to their freedom and transformation and the only way we can truly help them.

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH GLOBALLY

This story of persecution among the Wassulu people is one of many that are unfolding around the world right now. We must unite in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters.



A West African believer and subsistence farmer. IMB Photo.

- Ask God to comfort and strengthen persecuted believers who "are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).
- Pray for the Church to be confident in Christ's ultimate victory on the cross, remembering John 16:33 - "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
- Pray God will give persecuted believers the perspective and grace to "count it all joy" and trust "that the testing of [their] faith produces steadfastness" (James 1:2-3).
- Pray for believers around the world who endure persecution to continue speaking God's Word "with all boldness" (Acts 4:29).
- Ask God to use their witness to draw many people to Himself.



Join us in a month-long prayer journey with IMB's PrayerPoints newsletter. Download or subscribe: imb.org/prayerpoints

imb.org/persecuted





GOD'S MISSION IS UNSTOPPABLE.

Do you believe?

GOD'S MISSION IS UNSTOPPABLE ...

**and He calls us to
courageous obedience**

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

1. What does this passage tell us about God?
2. What does this passage tell us about humanity?
3. If this is true, then how will I obey this passage?
I will _____
4. Who is it that you know who will not kill you or persecute you, if you retold this story?

GOD'S MISSION IS UNSTOPPABLE ...

no matter the cost

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

1. What does this passage tell us about God?
2. What does this passage tell us about humanity?
3. If this is true, then how will I obey this passage?
I will _____
4. Who is it that you know who might reject you, laugh at you, or distance themselves from you if you retold this story?

GOD'S MISSION IS UNSTOPPABLE ...

no matter the cost

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

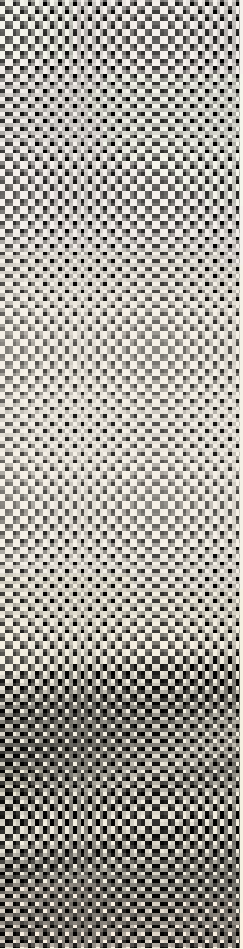
1. What does this passage tell us about God?
2. What does this passage tell us about humanity?
3. If this is true, then how will I obey this passage?
I will _____
4. Who is it that you know who will not kill you or persecute you, if you retold this story?

GOD'S MISSION IS UNSTOPPABLE ...

**and He calls us to
share our story**

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

1. What does this passage tell us about God?
2. What does this passage tell us about humanity?
3. If this is true, then how will I obey this passage?
I will _____ ?
4. Who is it that you know who might reject you, laugh at you, or distance themselves from you if you retold this story?



**“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said,
“and tell the people all about this new life.”**

ACTS 5:20 NIV