



Acts: Peter & John Before the Council

February 1

INTRODUCTION: Acts is all about *Jesus' work, through the Apostles and disciples, by the Holy Spirit, to fulfil Acts 1:8*. Prepared, the Jerusalem church continues to witness, chs. 3–4 mirroring ch. 2 in sign, sermon, response and picture. Now, however, the response is not so positive.

KEY POINT: witness, boldness, being with Jesus, persecution

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Healing of a Lame man, Acts 3:1–10)

- What details of this story are important to understand?
- What is a miracle?
- Should we expect this kind of healing today?
- What is the purpose of miracles?

P.M. SERMON RECAP ('Peter's Sermon,' Acts 3:11–26)

- When witnessing...
 - How must we *clarify* and not confuse?
 - Why must we *exalt Christ* in all we say?
 - Why must we not only clarify but also *convict*?
 - How should we use Scripture to *convince* of Christ?
 - Why must we seek to *convince* of the Gospel?

READ: Acts 4:1–22

QUESTIONS:

1. Vv. 1–4- What were the two responses to Peter's sermon?
2. *The Sadducees controlled the Temple, believed the Messiah had already come and denied the Resurrection. Thus the Apostles were both rebel rousers and heretics! The Apostles were both unauthorized and unprofessional preachers.*
3. V. 1–3-(v. 2- annoyed, disturbed, exasperated) **Why were Peter and John arrested? How does Christianity disturb our culture today? Why should we not be ashamed for speaking the truth?**

4. V. 4- Was speaking the truth worth it? Can the truth ultimately be suppressed? Despite their imprisonment what was the positive outcome?
5. Vv. 5–12- This is the second sermon Peter is able to preach as a result of the healing of the lame man.
6. Vv. 5–6- There are some very important people here. **How would you react if put on trial before the Prime Minister, his cabinet, the Supreme Court, the RCMP, the media, etc?**
7. V. 7- how is this question and setting similar to Jesus? (Lk 20:1–2, 21:12). Do you think they wondered if they might face a similar fate. What did the leaders want to know and why?
8. V. 8- what is critical to being able to bear witness?
9. V. 8b–12-What do we notice in Peter's speech that would be useful when we defend the faith?
10. V. 11- Ps 110- The leaders were supposed to be the builders of God's people yet they did not recognize the value of Jesus in founding the New Covenant work.
11. V. 12- Jesus is unique is not only who He is but what He had accomplished and hold unique salvific qualifications. **Why is this point so important? In our universalistic age how can we help people grasp this?**
12. V. 13- (They did not have formal Rabbic teaching or licence). Peter and John were fishermen. **Do we need to be a Rabbi or Chief Priest to "give a reason for the hope that is in us?" (1 Pet 3:15).**
13. V. 13- "The Be With Principle." **How do we spiritually mature by spending time with Jesus? How must we spend time with others to disciple them?**
14. V. 14- How does this prove 1 Pet 2:12?
15. Vv. 15- Rather than acknowledging the sign what do the leaders do instead of believing Peter?
16. V. 17–18, 21- **Why do people fear the truth? How do they seek to silence it?**
17. V. 19- Knowing what they were risking, how does persecution actually embolden believers? (Mt 5:11–12)
18. V. 19- How is this a classic verse on religious liberty?

NEXT: Feb 8-Acts 4:1–22