



Peter and John Acts 4

April 14

OVERVIEW: [Acts 1–12](#)

CONTEXT: Pentecost had come, Jesus' followers received the promised Holy Spirit. The New Covenant people, the Church, had been birthed, the living Temple of God. It was a joyous occasion but not everyone was happy! In the above video a pattern appears in Acts 3–5. Bookending this section are verses 2:46 and 5:42 about temple gatherings. Next you have stories about the disciples healing and preaching and being arrested by the authorities (chs. 3–4a and 5b). In the middle (ch. 4b) is the passage about the believers being united and generous (what the Law had commanded Israel but what they weren't doing). A contrast is being painted between the true and false people of God, or temples. Such tension ultimately erupts (see Jn 15) into the first wave of persecution in chs. 6–8a.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Introducing Acts)

- Who wrote Acts? Why is this important?
- Considering the end of Luke and the beginning of Acts, what links these books, and the story of the Bible, together? How is Christianity not new? How is this good news?
- How does Acts 1:8 define the book? Our approach to missions?
- Why was it necessary for the Apostles to appoint a replacement for Judas?
- Why was Pentecost such an important moment?
- Takeaways from Peter's sermon...
- Why is Christianity a life lived in the Spirit?

READ: Acts 4:1–22

QUESTIONS:

1. **V. 1- Have you ever had an experience where someone you thought should have been sympathetic to Christianity actually turned on you?**
2. V. 1- What great crime were the disciples committing?

3. In Canada we presently enjoy fundamental rights such as [conscience and religion; and belief, thought and expression](#). **What are these rights only as good as?**
4. **V. 2- Why were the Temple authorities “greatly annoyed”? (There are several reasons).**
5. V.3- What do people do who want to control the truth? Why were they so threatened by the disciples?
6. *V. 4- A key theme in Acts: the preached word changes lives.* **What encouragement should this be, even in the face of opposition?**
7. *V. 7- (Thinking of the Gospels) What were they after in asking this question? Whose authority had the disciples not sought?*
8. *V. 8–12- How does this episode encourage us to trust the promise of Jesus (Mt 10:19; Mk 13:11; Lk 12:11)?*
9. *The goodness of the deed points to the goodness of God, who sent Jesus, who raised Jesus, who gave Jesus authority in the Ascension. Here is the name or authority by which the deed was done. The leaders question the deed because they have rejected God by rejecting Christ. In so doing they have rejected the Cornerstone of the New Covenant people of God, and thus their share in it (v. 11).*
10. V. 12- How can we be confident of this beautiful Gospel verse?
11. *V. 13- Imagine staring down powerful men with great learning and traditional spiritual authority.* **Why were they astonished at their boldness and how did Peter and John do this?** (*fyi- “common” means not professional Rabbis*).
 1. What training had the disciples had?
 2. While not discrediting the place of Christian education, what ultimately qualifies us for Christian service and where do we obtain this from?
 3. Discipleship is all about...
12. *Vv. 14–22- As a result of the miracle and testimony, what was all that the leaders could do? What did this show they were interested in?*
13. **V. 19- How does this encourage us to speak the truth, even in the face of opposition?**

NEXT TIME: April 21, Acts 8:26–40, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch