

Acts 4:1-31 **Peter & John arrested – Obey God or Man – Prayer for Boldness**

Arrested by the Priests, Captain of the Temple, and Sadducees

¹ Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, ² being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

Many believed – 5,000 men plus women and children

⁴ However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

Questioned by the ruling Council

⁵ And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, ⁶ as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

Peter – Filled with the Holy Spirit – **Bold** answer to the rulers

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Boldness of Peter and John – Evidence that they had been with Jesus – Command to desist

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." ¹⁸ And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

What is right in the sight of God – To obey God or Men – We are eye witnesses

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Peter and John were threatened and released – The healed man was over 40 years old

²¹ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²² For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

Report to the Believers – Prayer for Boldness

²³ And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

'Why did the nations rage,
And the people plot vain things?
²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together
Against the LORD and against His Christ.'

²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

Place shaken – Filled with the Holy Spirit – Spoke the Word of God with Boldness

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ God through Peter and John had healed the forty year old man who had been born lame and had been begging at the gate of the Temple on a daily basis. [Acts 3:1-11]
- ✚ Peter and John had taught the people that the healing had been accomplished in the Name of Jesus whom God had glorified by raising Him from the dead, and that the man was healed through faith in the Name of Jesus. [Acts 3:12-16]
- ✚ Peter and John issued the call to repentance, identifying Jesus as The Prophet spoken of by Moses. [Acts 3:17-23]
- ✚ Jesus is the fulfillment of all prophecies of the Messiah. [Acts 3:24-25]
- ✚ Jesus was sent to the Jews first to bless them by turning them from their iniquities. [Acts 3:26]

Arrested by the Priests, Captain of the Temple, and Sadducees

- ✚ The Priests, Captain of the Temple, and Sadducees arrested Peter and John, because they preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. [Acts 4:1-3]
- ✧ The Sadducees are the sect of those who do not believe in resurrection. [Matthew 22:23, Mark 12:18, Luke 20:27, Acts 23:8]

Many believed – 5,000 men plus women and children

- ✚ However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. [Acts 4:4]

Questioned by the ruling Council

- ✚ And it came to pass, on the next day, that their **rulers, elders, and scribes**, as well as **Annas** the high priest, **Caiaphas, John, and Alexander**, and **as many as were of the family of the high priest**, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "**By what power or by what name have you done this?**" [Acts 4:5-7]

Peter – Filled with the Holy Spirit – **Bold** answer to the rulers

- ✚ Peter, Filled with the Holy Spirit addressed the rulers of Israel. [Acts 4:8]

- ✧ The question is: By what means has this helpless man been made well. [Acts 4:9]
- ✧ Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. [Acts 4:10]
- ✧ Peter identifies Jesus as the Chief Cornerstone rejected by the builders. [Acts 4:11]
- ✧ **No other Name** under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved. [Acts 4:12]
- ✧ **Salvation is found only in the Name of Jesus.**

Boldness of Peter and John – Evidence that they had been with Jesus – Command to desist

- ✧ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. [Acts 4:13]
- ✧ The evidence of the healed man standing there was overwhelming, they could say nothing against it. [Acts 4:14]
- ✧ After they put Peter and John out of the Assembly room, they conferred among themselves: "What shall we do to these men? For, **indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.** But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." [Acts 4:15-18]
- ✧ Acknowledging the truth of a notable miracle by such conclusive evidence does not change the heart of one determined to reject the impact of it.
- ✧ The assembly was so set against the Gospel message that in spite of the evidence, they threatened the eyewitnesses to silence them by commanding them not to speak or teach in the Name of Jesus.
- ✧ How often we reject the evidence of truth based on our own prejudice.

What is right in the sight of God – To obey God or Men – We are eye witnesses

- ✧ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For **we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**" [Acts 4:19-20]

Peter and John were threatened and released – The healed man was over 40 years old

- ✧ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. [Acts 4:21]
- ✧ Public opinion plays a great role in the minds of Politicians, though the politicians certainly do their best to sway public opinion.
- ✧ For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. [Acts 4:22]
- ✧ The healed man who had been lame from birth was over forty years old and had been laid daily at the gate of the Temple to beg for alms, so he was well known by all who frequented the Temple. [Acts 3:2, 4:22]

Report to the Believers – Prayer for Boldness

- ✧ Peter and John returned to the Believers, their own companions and reported the experience with the rulers of Israel. [Acts 4:23]
- ✧ The Disciples responded with fervent prayer, relating it to fulfillment of prophecy, and to the predetermined will of God. [Acts 4:24-28]
- ✧ Their request was for **BOLDNESS** to **PREACH** the **WORD** of **GOD**, and for **CONFIRMING SIGNS** from **GOD**. [Acts 4:29-30]

Place shaken – Filled with the Holy Spirit – Spoke the Word of God with Boldness

✠ And when they had prayed, **the place where they were assembled together was shaken;** and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit,** and they **spoke the word of God with boldness.** [\[Acts 4:31\]](#)

✧ God responded to their fervent prayer with clear manifestation of approval and conformation of the work of the Apostles.