

Acts 4 – Peter and John are arrested, threatened, and released

I. Peter and John before the Council – 4:1-22

- A. Peter and John are arrested, offer defense before the council – 4:1-12
 - 1. The Jewish leaders were concerned about the teachings of Peter and John
 - a) Specifically the resurrection of the dead
 - 2. Many of those who had been present to hear Peter’s sermon on Solomon’s porch believed, about 5,000 souls
 - 3. Gathered before the high priest and others, they are asked the question of how the healing of the lame man was accomplished
 - a) Peter responds it was by Jesus Christ
- B. **The council threatens Peter and John and let them go – 4:13-22**
 - 1. The council marveled at the boldness of Peter and John, despite their lack of proper training and education
 - a) The lame man who had been made whole was standing with them
 - 2. During deliberations, it is admitted that a miracle had been performed and there was no way to deny it. It is decided that they will threaten them so that Peter and John will not speak in the name of Jesus anymore.
 - 3. When told not to preach in the name of Jesus, Peter and John respond that they must continue to preach that of which they are witnesses.
 - 4. After threatening them, the council lets Peter and John go, not able to punish them because the people were glorifying the act as an act of God.
 - a) We learn that the former lame man was over forty years old

II. Peter and John report to the church – 4:23-31

- A. Peter and John report, the church prays to God – 4:23-30
 - 1. After hearing the threats of the council, the brethren pray with one voice to God, acknowledging Him as God, praising Him for His foresight, acknowledging that it was in His plan that Jesus would be killed and raised again.
 - 2. The brethren ask God to “look on their threats” and that He might give the brethren boldness to continue to preach the word and that miracles may continue to be done to prove it was His word.
 - a) Notice they did not ask God to protect them or keep them safe
- B. After the prayer had been completed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were filled with the spirit – 4:31

III. The 8,000+ brethren have all things in common, take care of each other – 4:32-37

- A. All the brethren took care of each other and sold what they had to give to those in need.
 - 1. No one lacked anything, because of the goodness of the saints
 - 2. One specific man, nicknamed Barnabas (Son of Encouragement), named Joses (or Joseph), sold land and gave the money to the apostles for the saints
- B. The apostles continued to preach the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - 1. They were also in charge of distributing to the needs of the saints

Questions:

1. Why were the Sadducees particularly displeased with what was being taught? What other apostle would one day use this to his advantage and where in the Bible is this found?

2. True or False: The number of people saved in Acts 4:4 was 3,000.

3. Peter's initial address in vs.9 suggests what about the legality (or morality) of their arrest?

4. What three issues does Peter bring out in vs. 10 to which the council might take offense or exception?

5. Why could the council not deny that a notable miracle had been done?

6. Why could the council not punish Peter and John?

7. Was the shaking of the assembly place a miracle? Why or why not?

8. The members of the early church had "all things in common". There are Christians who suggest that we are not truly following the NT example because we do not practice this same thing today. Do you agree or disagree with this suggestion? Why? Define having "all things in common".