THE BOOK OF ACTS

"To Do and To Teach"

Teaching 9: Chapter 4, PT. 2 – Threat and Release

Introduction: We begin **Part 2** of **Chapter 4** remembering the boldness and confidence that Peter and John had in the face of those who could, at any time, put them in jail.

- These were men whose boldness and courage left the people literally in awe!
- It was not them, but the way they responded that let the Sanhedrin know that they had been with Jesus…The Fruit Remained!

Acts 4:14-22

Threat and Release

Verse 14

Acts 4:14 (AMP) – [14] And seeing the man who had been healed standing *there* with them, **they had nothing to say in reply**.

Note: Just like in **Acts 3:11**, with the healing of the lame man, the miracle performed is having the same impact on these Religious Leaders, they are speechless! Unfortunately, there is always a "but".

Verses 15-16

Acts 4:15-16 (AMP) – [15] But after ordering them to **step out of the Council [chamber],** they *began* **to confer among themselves**, [16] saying, "**What are we to do with these men**? For the **fact** that an extraordinary miracle has taken place through them is public knowledge *and* **clearly evident** to all the residents of Jerusalem, and **we cannot deny it.**

The Plotting Begins



- This miracle is now known to the Public.
- They cannot lie and say, "it didn't happen".
- So, they must put their deceptive heads together.

<u>Verse 17</u>

Acts 4:17 (AMP) – [17] But to **keep it from spreading further among the people and the nation**, let us [sternly] warn them not to speak again to anyone in this name."

Note: When truth cannot be hidden, it has to be silenced or censored. This is why we have so much compromise in the Ekklesia today! People want to go to Heaven, but they don't want to die for Truth to get there!

Post Truth Era

Understanding: The phrase **"Post Truth Era"** spiked by 2000% in 2016 and this led to the **Oxford Dictionaries** to name the phrase **"Post Truth"** its Word of the Year!

Question: What does this mean according to Oxford Dictionaries?

Answer: It defines **"post-truth"** as "relating to or denoting circumstances in which **objective facts** are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief".

Verse 18

Acts 4:18 (AMP) – [18] So they sent for them, and commanded them not to speak [as His representatives] or teach at all in the name of Jesus [**using Him as their authority**].



Pay Attention To Words

- "Using **His Name**/Using **His Authority"**
- It would not be a problem if they said they did this miracle!
- The Enemy is doing the same thing today.
- You can use any name or any other authority, and no one will say a word.

Verses 19-20

Acts 4:19-20 (AMP) – [19] But Peter and John replied to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you *and* obey you rather than God, you must judge [for yourselves]; [20] for we, on our part, **cannot stop** telling [people] about what we have seen and heard."

KJV-Cannot-(Greek)-*en boró*- meaning "I cannot" / **"I am not able"**, "to be unable", expresses inability.



Understanding: In other words, nothing you do to us can cause us to change our minds.

- These men of G-d had made-up their minds, and with the help of the Holy Spirit they were made effective.
- They were not double-minded at all; their minds were sound and unchanging. No compromise was in these men!
- They were living 2 Timothy 1:7.

2 Timothy 1:7 (AMP) – [7] For God did not give us a spirit of timidity *or* cowardice *or* fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of sound judgment *and* personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control].

<u>Verses 21-22</u>

Acts 4:21-22 (AMP) – [21] When the rulers and Council members had **threatened them** further, they let them go, **finding no way to punish them** because [**of their fear] of the people,** for they were all **praising *and* glorifying *and* honoring God** for what had happened; [22] for the man to whom this sign (attesting miracle) of healing had happened was more than **forty years old.**



Note: In the “Post Truth Era”, people have become discouraged because they were looking at man and not at G-d.

- Peter and John would not allow this to be.
- They remained Faithful even in the face of their threats.
- They made a choice to follow Jesus, and nothing could turn them from it.
- Not even death!

Understanding: We all in the last days will be confronted with the same choice. How will you choose? Selah…

The End