THE BOOK OF ACTS

"To Do and To Teach"

Teaching 8: Chapter 4, PT. 1 – Peter and John Arrested

Introduction: Chapter 3 closed reminding us of the Blessing that comes with being part of the seed of Abraham. The Seed that gave birth to all believers is **Jesus**!

Galatians 3:16 (AMP) - [16] Now the promises [in the covenants] were decreed to Abraham and to his seed. God does not say**, "And to seeds (descendants, heirs),"** as if [referring] to many [persons], but as to one, "And to your Seed," **who is [none other than] Christ**.

- There is no access to Fathers promised covenant blessing other than through His Son Jesus.
- Jesus is the Seed that bruises the enemy's head **(Genesis 3:15)**.

Acts 4:1-14

Peter and John Arrested

Verses 1-2

Acts 4:1-2 (AMP) - [1]And while Peter and John were talking to the people, the priests and the captain [who was in charge of the temple area and] of the temple *guard* and the Sadducees came up to them, [2] being extremely disturbed *and* **thoroughly annoyed** because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in [the case of] Jesus the resurrection of the dead.



Note: This is the #1 reason Believers compromise and shrink back in their walk, witnessing and teaching, they don't want the suffering side of serving the LORD.

- If everything is not just perfect and running smoothly, that's just not something they desire.
- Any work on their part has just eliminated them from pressing past hard times.
- The first sign of trouble or even a bump in the road and they are gone.
- They surely are not willing to be persecuted for the sake of the Gospel.
- And let's not even mention dying for the sake of the Gospel.

The Cross Has A Cost

Luke 14:27-28 (AMP) – **27** Whoever does not carry his own cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] cannot be My disciple. **28** For which one of you, when he wants to build a watchtower [for his guards], does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to finish it?

<u>Verses 3-4</u>

Acts 4:3-4 (AMP) – **3** So they arrested them and put them in jail until the next day, because it was evening. **4** But many of those who heard the message [of salvation] believed [in Jesus and accepted Him as the Christ]. And the number of the men came to be about 5,000.

Key: In other words, the Word already impacted about 5,000 people. Once the Seed gets in, it starts to germinate.

- How many of us are saved today because of the witness of someone else taking the time to tell us about Jesus?
- This is why the Darkness wants to stop your witness, in any form.
- Remember it's not just to stop what you **do**, it's to stop what you **teach**!
- The Enemy has to stop the Seed.

Verses 5-7

Acts 4: 5-7 (AMP) – [5] On the next day, their magistrates and elders and scribes (Sanhedrin, Jewish High Court) were gathered together in Jerusalem; [6] and Annas the high priest *was there,* and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all others who were of high-priestly descent. [7] When they had put the men in front of them, they repeatedly asked, "By what sort of power, or in what name [that is, by what kind of authority], **did you do this [healing]?**"



Note: This "John" mentioned in **Verse 6** is a prominent member of the Jewish high-priestly family or the ruling council known as the Sanhedrin. All those gathered to interrogate Peter and John were the Jewish Religious Leaders.

Verses 8-10

Acts 4:8-10 (AMP) – [8] Then Peter, **filled with [the power of] the Holy Spirit,** said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people [members of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish High Court], [9] if we are being put on trial today [to interrogate us] for a good deed done **to [benefit] a disabled man,** as to how this man has been restored to health, [10] let it be known *and* clearly understood by all of you, and by all the people of Israel, that **in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene,** whom you [demanded be] crucified [by the Romans and], whom God raised from the dead—**in this name [that is, by the authority and power of Jesus]** this man stands here before you in good health.

Key: Without the **Holy Spirit** they could not be this bold!

Question: How do we know?

Answer: Jesus told us in the first **Epistle** written by **Luke**!

Luke 12:11-12 (KJV) – [11] And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and *unto* magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: [12] For the **Holy Ghost** shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

The Chief Cornerstone

<u>Verses 11-12</u>

Act 4:11-12 (AMP) - [11] This Jesus is the STONE WHICH WAS DESPISED *and* REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, *but* WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE. [12] **"**And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved [for God has provided the world **<u>no alternative for salvation</u>**]."

Key: Peter is boldly reminding them that what they have done was foretold in the **Psalms**.



Psalm 118:22 (KJV) – [22] The stone *which* the builders refused is become the head *stone* of the corner.

Application: King David proclaims, what man rejected G-d has exalted to the highest place of authority of both honor and majesty, to be above all!

Threat and Release

<u>Verses 13-14</u>

Acts 4:13-14 (AMP) – [13] Now when the men of the Sanhedrin (Jewish High Court) saw the **confidence *and* boldness** of Peter and John, and grasped the fact that they were **uneducated and untrained [ordinary] men, they were astounded**, and ***began* to recognize that they had been with Jesus**. [14] And seeing the man who had been healed standing *there* with them, **they had nothing to say in reply**.

Note: And this is how you shut the devil's mouth!

Confidence-(Greek)-*parresia*- free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance, unreservedness in speech.
Boldness-(Greek)-*parresia*- free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance, unreservedness in speech.



- Peter and John gave them nothing but Truth!
- But it was how it was given!
- **Confidence and Boldness!**
- These two cannot be taught, they can only come from Holy Spirit!
- When you are operating out of the power of Holy Spirit people will know!
- These are even commanded by G-d concerning His Leaders.

Joshua 1:9 (AMP) – [9] "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Strong-(Hebrew)-*hazaq*- to prevail, prevail upon, to be firm, be caught fast, be secure.

Courageous-(Hebrew)-*ames*-alert, bold, be brave, stout solid, established, steadfastly minded.

The End