

Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts

Acts 4:1–22

Read Acts 4:1–22.

1. Peter and John are speaking to the people after the healing of the crippled beggar. Who interrupts them? (v. 1)

2. Why are the officials “greatly disturbed” (v. 2)?

3. Why do they feel threatened?
Mt. 27:62–64; 28:5-6, 11–15

Lk. 20:46–47a

Jn. 11:47–48

Acts 23:8a

4. What else happens as a result of the message Peter and John preach?
v. 3

v. 4

5. Peter and John now appear before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council (vv. 7–12).
 - a. What does the council ask them? (v. 7)


 - b. As Peter testifies before this influential group of men, what power and name does he point to? (v. 10)

 - c. What was accomplished through this power and name? (v. 10b)

6. Peter and John saw what this same group of religious leaders did to Jesus. Now they have been thrown into jail for preaching and healing in Jesus’ name.
 - a. What do you think would be a natural response to their circumstances?

 - b. What attitude do you see instead? (vv. 8–12)

7. What stands out to the religious leaders as they examine Peter and John? (v. 13)

8. What accounts for such boldness and courage? (vv. 8, 13c; * Mt. 10:18–20; Lk. 21:12–15)

9. In verse 11, Peter quotes Psalm 118. What does this quotation say about the religious officials (“builders”) and Jesus (“the stone”)? (v. 11)

10. The healed cripple standing before the court is a beautiful picture of a man totally dependent on another to save him. How is our great need and only hope the same as this man’s? (v. 12; Jn. 3:17–18)

11. What can the religious leaders not deny? (vv. 14-16, 22)


12. The small word “But” at the beginning of verse 17 is one of the saddest in the passage. After witnessing an “outstanding miracle” (v. 16), what do these men seek? (v. 17; consider the contrast with v. 4)

13. This ruling council is flexing all its authoritative muscle to get this situation under control. These officials “commanded [Peter and John] not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus” (v. 18).
 - a. Why? (v.17)

 - b. Why are Peter and John undaunted by the authority of the high council? (v. 19)

14. In the gospels, Peter often speaks in ways that are not in keeping with God’s priorities. Now in Acts, what can Peter not help speaking about? (v. 20; 2:31–32; 3:15)

15. This passage demonstrates how the Holy Spirit empowered Peter to speak with boldness. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit empowering you to witness to what you’ve seen and heard? Share a word of encouragement from your own experience or from what you’ve seen the Spirit accomplish through someone else.

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.