

“Emboldened” - Acts 4:8-21

Ask - “Have you ever had to stand up to authority? Share your story.”

Background - In last week’s lesson, we read that Peter healed a lame beggar at the temple gate as he and John were on their way to worship. He then began preaching to the Jewish crowd. Today’s lesson continues where that lesson left off.

“The Defense” - Acts 4:8-12

(v8-9) Read verses 1-7 and discuss Peter and John’s arrest. By what power did Peter address his accusers? What did he suggest the charges were that had been made against them?

(v10-11) What explanation did Peter give for the healing of the lame man? Look up and read Psalm 118:22. Why did Peter refer to this verse?

(v12) Does this verse leave any leeway for other methods of salvation? Take a moment to memorize Acts 4:12.

PETER ANSWERED THE ACCUSATIONS OF THE CHIEF PRIEST BY EXPLAINING THAT THE LAME MAN HAD BEEN HEALED BY THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME. HE WENT ON TO DECLARE THE EXCLUSIVITY OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

“The Deliberation” - Acts 4:13-17

(v13-14) What did the chief priests and Council think about Peter and John? How about the healed man who stood there with them?

(v15-16) What did they order Peter and John to do before they began conferring? What fact did they discuss that was undeniable?

(v17) What verdict did they decide to render? What was the motivation behind it?

THE CHIEF PRIEST AND JUDGING COUNCIL WERE IMPRESSED BY PETER AND JOHN AND COULD NOT DENY THE FACT THAT A MIRACLE HAD OCCURRED. NEVERTHELESS, THEY DECIDED TO RESTRICT PETER AND JOHN FROM PREACHING THE NAME OF JESUS ANY MORE.

“The Verdict” - Acts 4:18-21

(v18) After conferring with each other, When the Council summoned Peter and John, what command did they give them?

(v19-20) What was Peter and John's response? Should we heed the commands of God or the commands of man? Discuss.

(v21) What ultimately did the authorities do with Peter and John? Why did they let them go?

AFTER DELIBERATION, THE COUNCIL COMMANDED PETER AND JOHN NOT TO PREACH OR TEACH IN THE NAME OF JESUS ANYMORE. THEY RESPECTFULLY REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH THE DECISION. NEVERTHELESS, THEY WERE SET FREE.

Application - Peter and John were arrested for preaching the name of Jesus. Although the power of Christ was factually evident by the healing of the lame man, still the Jewish leaders were fearful that faith in Jesus might spread. They forbade Peter and John from preaching Jesus anymore and let them go. However, Peter and John boldly told them that they would obey God rather than man, and would continue proclaiming Christ and His gospel. How does your Christian boldness compare to these disciples? Talk about it.