



Welcome  
Family & Friends

# Peter & John before the Sanhedrin Council (Acts 4) Part 1

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**(Studies on the Book of Acts)**

# Review of previous lesson:

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- Peter & John came to the temple during the second hour of prayer.
- Peter healed the man in the gate who was lame from birth.
- The people are astonished at the healing of this lame man.
- Peter uses the opportunity to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## In this lesson:


- Peter & John are brought before the Sanhedrin Council to answer for what they have done in the temple by healing this lame man and teaching the people about Jesus.
- Peter proclaims the name of Jesus Christ.
- They are commanded to speak no more in the name of Jesus Christ.
- However, they boldly profess that they must continue to preach in his name!
- Peter & John are released from custody.

Peter & John brought  
before the Sanhedrin  
Council.

Acts 4:1 - 22

*1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.*

Acts 4:1 – 4 (ESV)



The first  
persecution  
of the  
church:

- Peter & John are taken into custody by the captain of temple and the Sadducees.
- The captain of the temple is second in power to the High Priest.
- He was also in charge of the temple activity and security.
- Matthew 10:17 – 20
- The Sanhedrin council is upset that they are preaching in Jesus' name about the resurrection from the dead.
- They are kept in custody overnight.

# The church has grown to around 5000 men.

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- The Greek seems to indicate that “men” refers to males, instead of generally refers all peoples.
- Therefore, the actually number could be doubled from the 5000.
- Acts 2:41



*5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”*

Acts 4:5 – 7 (ESV)

# Peter and John are brought before the Sanhedrin Council.

- The council was made up of 70 members plus the High Priest.
- Most were Sadducees.
- Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, angels, demons, or anything to do with the spiritual realm.
- Matthew 22:23
- There were two High Priest at the time.
  - Annas was the High Priest recognized by the council and Jewish people.
  - However, he was removed by Roman Law and replaced by his son-in-law, Caiaphas.
  - Luke 3:2
- The identity of John and Alexander are not known for certain, but John may be next in line for the High Priest office.

*8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

*Acts 4:8 – 12 (ESV)*

The Holy Spirit  
inspires Peter  
to speak.

- Matthew 10:19 – 20
- 2 Peter 1:21

# The Message of the Holy Spirit:

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- Peter & John were on trial for doing a good deed.
- Jesus has become the chief cornerstone.
- Psalms 118:22
- Matthew 21:42


Salvation can  
only come  
through  
Jesus.

- John 20:31
- 1 Timothy 2:3 – 6
- Jude 1:3

*13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.*

*Acts 4:13 – 14 (ESV)*

The council  
was left  
speechless.

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*15 But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, 16 saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*

Acts 4:15 – 18 (ESV)

They are commanded to  
speak no more in the name of  
Jesus Christ.

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*19 But Peter and John answered them,  
“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen  
to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20  
for we cannot but speak of what we have seen  
and heard.”*

Acts 4:19 – 20 (ESV)

They boldly profess  
that they must  
continue to preach  
in his name!

*32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 10:32 – 33 (ESV)

*21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.*

1 Kings 18:21 (ESV)

*21 And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.*

Acts 4:21 – 22 (ESV)

In our next study, we will  
look at the rest of  
chapter 4.