

NOTE: For exceptional Bible students, I have created links online to other material related to this chapter. Go to <http://LemmonsAid.WordPress.com> and type in the SEARCH BOX: Acts 4 Links

Peter—Acts 4

Peter and John in Prison, then Released

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 4:1...** SADDUCEES--Matthew 3:7; 16:1; 16:6; 16:11; 22:23; 22:34; Mark 12:18; Luke 20:27; Acts 5:17; 23:8.
- 4:8...** FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST--The Seventy Elders (Numbers 11:25); Balaam (Numbers 23:5); David (2 Samuel 23:2); Micaiah (1 Kings 22:14; 2 Chronicles 20:14); Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:20); Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:9-10; 20:9); Ezekiel (Ezekiel 3:17; Ezekiel 11:5); Micah 3:8.
- 4:11...** STONE--Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16; Zechariah 3:9; 10:4; Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6.
- 4:15...** THEY CONFERRED—"What the Sanhedrin did not do is of epic significance. They did deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a fact Peter had boldly affirmed in their presence; and the conclusion must be allowed that the resurrection of Christ was in the same category as the healing of the impotent man before them. They could not deny it! Can any man believe that those unscrupulous unbelievers would not have denied it if there had been any rational basis under heaven for their doing so?" [Coffman].
- 4:20...** WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK--"This was an open defiance of their power, with a direct appeal to their own consciences for a vindication of it. The apostles were not willing that their silence should be construed into even a momentary acquiescence in such a command, and they spoke in such a manner as to be distinctly understood" [McGarvey].
- 4:24...** WITH ONE ACCORD—"With one accord ... This expression occurs eleven times in the Acts, and only once elsewhere in the New Testament (Rom. 15:6). It stresses the unity of the Lord's followers, and thus reveals one of the great secrets of the success of Christianity during those first years" [Coffman].
- 4:33...** GREAT GRACE—"Great grace was upon them all ... The result of such overflowing generosity was that the effectiveness of the apostles' message was multiplied, and what might be called a revival of the most fantastic proportions ensued" [Coffman].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Church.**

III. Summary.

In this chapter we find the persecution from the Jews beginning. Peter and John are arrested for preaching about Jesus rising from the dead. Rapid growth is taking place from the efforts of the apostles and others of the Jerusalem church, now reaching 5,000 men. Peter and John give their defense before the Council. The boldness of these two apostles was noticed. The power of the signs produced by the apostles was doing its work of confirming their word. In verse 20 we find a great truth that needs to be memorized and practiced by every gospel preacher. That the early church believed in the power of prayer is evident in this chapter. Their prayer was not to avoid suffering, but rather to have the boldness to continue spreading the message. These early Christians were a sharing and caring group. We have in this chapter our first mention of Barnabas as he sells some land and gives it to the apostles.

IV. Outline.

1. Peter and John arrested (Acts 4:1-3).
2. The church grows to 5,000 men (Acts 1:4).
3. Peter and John confronted by the council (Acts 4:5-7).
4. Peter's defense (Acts 4:8-12).
5. The council discusses what action to take and threatens Peter and John (Acts 4:13-18).
6. Peter and John are not moved away from their responsibility by the council's threats (Acts 4:19-22).
7. Peter and John return to their own company, report, and pray (Acts 4:23-30).
8. Prayer answered (Acts 4:31).
9. Unity exemplified (Acts 4:32).
10. Sharing exemplified (Acts 4:33-37).

V. Questions.**True or False**

01. _____ According to this chapter, there were no Christians in Jerusalem who were without food.
02. _____ The Sadducees were grieved that the apostles taught about the resurrection.
03. _____ The previously-lame man, who had sat at the Beautiful Gate, was twenty years of age.
04. _____ Peter and John were not thought to be highly educated men.
05. _____ The council was pleased that the message of Jesus' resurrection was spreading.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Barnabas could trace his lineage back to: (a) Cyprus; (b) Levi; (c) Judah.
07. _____ The request to the Lord made in prayer in this chapter was for: (a) deliverance from persecution; (b) daily bread; (c) boldness in speaking the word.
08. _____ Where did Peter and John first go when released from prison: (a) to their own company; (b) the synagogue; (c) to the Temple.
09. _____ What was UPON all the saints of this chapter: (a) great sadness; (b) great grace; (c) great anger.
10. _____ Who said—WE CANNOT DENY IT: (a) the disciples; (b) the council; (c) the lame man.

Fill in the Blanks

11. Peter and John were asked: "by what _____, or by what _____ have ye done this?"
12. "...and that _____ and wonders may be done by the _____ of thy _____ Jesus."
13. "_____ is there _____ in any other: for there is _____ other _____ under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
14. _____ are words used to describe the prayer of the saints.
15. The council decided to _____ the apostles.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Acts 3... [01—True, Acts 3:24; 02—True, Acts 3:2; 03—False, Acts 3:17-19; 04—False, Acts 3:7; 05—False, Acts 3:16; 06—c, Acts 3:2; 07—b, Acts 3:26; 08—c, Acts

3:19; 09—a, Acts 3:15; 10—a, Acts 3:12; 11—B, Acts 13, 25; 12—G, Acts 3:15; 13—A, Acts 3:22; 14—H, Acts 3:1; 15—E, Acts 3:24.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **Being grieved that they taught the people...** (Acts 4:2). These Sadducees were GREATLY DISTURBED by the teaching of the resurrection. Rather than listening to the preaching in a genuine search for truth, the Sadducees sought to silence the preachers. It was good that they were disturbed; this indicating that they understood the consequences of the teaching, but their chosen **response** was NOT good. Today, we should seek to disturb the thinking of our lost friends and neighbors in a similar way, whenever their thinking contradicts plain Bible teaching!
2. **...By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?** (Acts 4:7). This is one of the most important questions that can be asked with regard to religion or spiritual matters. Peter was thankful to have opportunity to answer, and wanted it known by all the people of Israel (v. 10). Whatever we do **MUST** be done by that same authority (Col 3:17).
3. **...they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus** (Acts 4:13). Something separated these men from the ordinary Palestinian Jew. That **SOMETHING** was the influence of Jesus Christ. The same influence in our lives will also separate US from those outside of Christ.
4. **We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard** (Acts 4:20). When man's law interferes with the obedience of God's law, obedience to God's law must be selected as our way to go!
5. **...they went to their own company** (Acts 4:23). The tremendous **VALUE** of Christian fellowship is seen here.
6. **...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...** (Acts 4:24). Surely one of the **GREAT POWERS** of that first century church was the power of **UNITED PRAYER!**
7. **...neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own** (Acts 4:32). This verse places **THINGS** in their proper perspective. It all belongs to God (Ps 50:10). We have been entrusted as stewards over some of God's possessions. We need to be **FAITHFUL** in that stewardship. One of the wonderful ways to use possessions is sharing with brethren in need!
8. **FRUITS OF PERSECUTION** [Outline from Andrew Connally, *Great Lessons from Acts*, pp. 45-46].
 - 1) Driven to God in Prayer (Acts 4:23-24).
 - 2) Cried Out to God for Boldness (v. 29).
 - 3) Bound Together by their Common Faith and Persecution (v. 32).
 - 4) Led into Unselfish Service (v. 32).
 - 5) Resulted in Great Grace Upon Them (vv. 33-35).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

B W S X C B R O U G H T V F R T G N H Y
 U A R F V C D E R E S U R R E C T I O N
 X S R W E D C V W T P Y H N M N J U I O
 B G T N E W S X I S W O X S O Q A Z X S
 E D C V A F R T T B N H S I U J M Y H N
 R F V B G B Y H N M J U T S I K Y T R E
 E D C V F R A Y E T G A B V E F R E D C
 Z A Q W S X C S S B L B G T Y S U J M L
 B A P O S T L E S O B G T R E D S C X A
 C D E R F V B G S T G N E H Y U J O M N
 G V F L R T G N B G T W E D C V F R R D
 R V F E R F O B G T I Y H N M J U I W S
 E X S V C C D E R P F V B G T Y H N U E
 A C D I V F E Q T C V B D V F R T J M A
 T X E T R F V A B G T Y L A I D D E O Q
 G C D E V F E T Y R B V O B G T E W N F
 R V F R T R B H O U S E S N H Y K E E V
 A V F R G T G B N H Y U J T R W C Q Y Z
 C X D I S T R I B U T I O N V F A T G E
 E C V B N H Y R E D F R T G B Y L D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Acts 4:33-37... ³³And with **great power** gave the **apostles witness** of the **resurrection** of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace** was upon them all. ³⁴Neither was there any among them that **lacked**: for as many as were **possessors** of **lands** or **houses sold** them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, ³⁵And **laid** them down at the apostles' feet: and **distribution** was made unto every man according as he had need. ³⁶And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed **Barnabas**, (which is, being interpreted, The son of **consolation**.) a **Levite**, and of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷Having land, sold *it*, and **brought** the **money**, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.