

Acts 4 Determined Disciples

Satan's efforts to destroy the church are on full display.

Peter's sermon was brought to an abrupt end in Ch. 3.

1. Arrest – v. 1-12

- 1: priests: chief priests (23), 24 in total, each served a week at a time; captain: head of sec. at Temple; Sadducees: small, powerful sect, did not believe in resurrection.
- 2: no law broken, but they posed a threat; a. teaching people b. proclaiming Jesus c. rose from dead
- 3: placed in a chamber in Temple, stopped 6p
- 4: result: many believed, audience saw P&J arrested, but this didn't deter them from becoming Chr.; believed: rep. of whole; 5000 men (specific gender), women often more
- 5: arrest just the start of Satan's attempts
- 6: HP: hon. title (President), Ananias Ex-HP, Caiaphas, Ananias' son-in-law; influential men
- 7: Sanhedrin Council: 70 members + HP, intimidating for 2 apostles; this? Give reason. Power – same word for miracle
- 8: responds with respect, HS provided for them, Lk. 21:14-15
- 9: Spirit interpreted "this" to mean healing
- 10: "I want everyone to know this!" points finger at audience
- 11: QT Ps. 118:22, Jesus applied to Himself, Mk. 12:10, rejected because of their misconceptions about Him
- 12: play on words: "saved" some root word as "made well" in v. 9. "Salvation" is same root family. Narrow-minded but true – Jn. 14:6; we: all inclusive

2. Reaction – v. 13-22

- 13: uneducated men showed boldness, courage, confidence; no mistaking they had been with Christ
- 14: painful pause
- 15: P&J, healed man leave, they begin to discuss what had happened. God knows what goes on behind closed doors.
- 16: no denying the miracle: exhibit A just walked through the door; unlike 'modern' miracles, NT miracles were immediate (3:7), complete (4:10), & convincing (4:16)!

- 17: council knew he was healed > P&J's preaching was true ∴ Jesus had been raised from the dead
- 18: highest court verdict; illegal to preach JC
- 19: Jesus had trapped the council before, Mt. 21:24-27
- 20: cannot stop being a witness for Christ
- 21: more legal threats would await them; council intimidated by the people
- 22: age emphasized because everyone knew him

3. Prayer – v. 23-31

- 23: immediately sought their own Chr. Family
- 24: another source of strength: prayer; 2nd prayer in book; Lord: ruler who has absolute power; address all God created
- 25,26: Qt. Ps. 2; rage: neighing of a spirited horse; ref. to a period of confusion during the interim between 2 kings
- 27: Ps. 2 specifically foreshadowed Christ; Jesus anointed at His baptism. When Israel rejected Christ, it became a heaven nation.
- 28: stressed reliance on God
- 29,30: leaving the matter to the Lord's hands; not concerned about the council, they were concerned they would be equal to the challenge
- 31: tangible way of showing God is with them; not another Pentecost, but simply under the control of the spirit; now all apostles speak with confidence

4. Unity – v. 32-37

- 32: whole cong. united; not every Chr. Immediately sold all they had, sold as needed
- 33: result of all the love & liberality exhibited
- 34: ideal condition; don't need more gov't programs, need more of the Spirit of Christ!
- 35: money given to apostles; they help when the need(s) arrive, 6:1-4
- 36: specific example of giving Joseph, born on isle of Cyprus, Barnabas 25x in Ac. 5x epistles
- 37: gave all to the apostles, great contrast to 5:1-12; Levites usually didn't have land – giving up even bigger accomplishment

Lessons:

- Peter correctly observed in 4:12. We would do well to quit trying to find other ways of being saved because no others exist, John 14:6.
- Just like it was with the council, it is impossible to deny the evidence of Jesus, His teachings, & the miracles.
- There is never a bad time to spend in prayer; it is effective, James 5:16.
- Ps. 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Divisions destroy unity, so we should destroy the divisions and seek after unity.

© 2023 Justin D. Reed
Post Office Box 292, Woodbury TN 37190
justinreedbible.com justinreedbible@gmail.com
Questions & PowerPoint (No. 354) available online.

October 29, 2023 AM Arlington church of Christ