

## Acts 4

Acts 4: 1-22 Peter and John before the Council Provoked by Peter's sermon, the Sadducean leaders had the two apostles arrested and held for trial before the Sanhedrin. Three parts – 1. Arrest, 2. The hearing, and 3. The warning. The captain of the Temple was second in command to the High Priest. The Sadducees accepted only the first five books of the Bible (Pentateuch) and denied the resurrection. Most other Jews did believe in the resurrection. The Sadducees not only did not believe in the resurrection, but believed Peter's preaching affirming the resurrection of Jesus would lead to events the Romans would interpret as revolutionary.

The church is growing, beginning with 120 (1:15) then 3000 (2:41) and now the men alone were around 5000 (4:4). They were held over-night and tried in the morning. The Sanhedrin – the Jewish High Court was comprised of 71 members – 70 elders and the High Priest. Peter – filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 12: 11-12), *testifies that the lame man healed was healed by Jesus, whom they had ordered crucified.* Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we are saved.” Peter spoke with boldness – *parresia*- Holy Spirit inspired courage and confidence. The Sanhedrin saw these uneducated men spoke with wisdom not learned from rabbinic schools or other training, but from God.

What shall we do with these men? They charged Peter and John not to speak again in the name of Jesus. “We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

Acts 4: 23-31 The Believers pray for Boldness “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your Word with all boldness, while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy Servant Jesus.” The Lord filled them with the Holy Spirit and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.