

Acts: The Questioning

Acts 4:1-22

The Establishment's Fear (4:1-4)

- The religious leadership of the Temple that was present saw Peter & John's preaching & miracle-working as a threat
 - Especially the Sadducees, the Jewish sect that was in power during this time period
 - The only accepted the books of Moses (Gen.-Duet.) as authentic
 - They denied the resurrection of the dead (see Matt. 22:23-33)
- They arrest Peter & John
- The first real opposition the Church has faced
 - Not from the people: The Church grew to 5000
 - But from the frightened Jewish leadership

Questioned & Answered (v. 5-12)

- The religious leadership gathers to make a formal inquiry of the healing
 - Annas and Caiaphas were both involved in the trials of Jesus
- They cannot deny that the man was healed, so they asked by what authority/name Peter & John have done it
- Peter responds by declaring that it is through the name/authority of Jesus that this miracle has taken place
- He also points out their culpability in killing Jesus
 - And shows how their rejection of Jesus was foretold in Scripture
- This resurrected Jesus is the Cornerstone on which God's people is to be built
 - Thus, salvation is found in Him alone

Warned & Released (v. 13-22)

- They religious leaders convene privately to discuss what they just heard
- The religious leaders see boldness in Peter & John
 - Who are uneducated
 - Who are known associates of Jesus
- They do not consider the message's validity, but rather it's how to silence its spread
 - So, they warn the Apostles not to preach and heal in the name of Jesus anymore
- Peter & John respond:
 - They fear God more than men
 - They must proclaim Jesus!
- They are then threatened again and released
- The response of the crowds is praise to God for the healing
 - Especially since the man had been crippled for over 40 years!

So What?

- Even amid threats, the Apostles proclaimed Christ with boldness
- Are we willing to do the same?

Meditation Verse: *Acts 4:12*