

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Key from *How to Study the Bible*:

The Bible is **not** difficult to understand. We make it difficult by **not believing every word** we read. Anyone can get it. There is **no** special secret or magic formula. The disciples were **common men**, not scholars. God wrote the Bible to **reveal truth, not hide it!**

Scriptures for Today: Acts 4:1-37 –

The Enemy's Pattern – *opposition brings prayer and power through the Holy Spirit!*

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. As Peter and John **spoke**, the **religious** leaders were **gathered** _____ them. 4:1-6

- ✓ They were **grieved** that they: 1) **taught** the people, and 2) **preached** Christ crucified...
Matthew 12:14; 26:59; Mark 14:55; 15:1; Luke 22:66; John 11:47; Acts 5:21, 27, 34, 41; 6:12, 15

NOTE Acts is the foundation for Church History. We clearly see God working and then now we see a clear and deliberate "gathering together" of so-called "religious" leaders and people in direct opposition to the work of God and His faithful servants. This gathering is called the "council" in Acts 4:15 and is the beginning of what will be used all through Church History to come against God's work and God's Word.

- ✓ Remember when enemy **attacks** come, **many** of them which **heard the word believed**...
Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:23

2. An opportunity was **presented** for them to be a _____ for Christ. 4:7-14

- ✓ Peter once again preached Christ **crucified** and **salvation only** through **faith** in Christ...
Acts 1:8; 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20; Galatians 3:21-24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 2:5-11; Titus 3:5-6

NOTE Peter's power source was the filling of the Holy Ghost. He did not get more of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost **got more of him!** He was under attack from the religious leaders who crucified their Messiah and he was willing to make another installment as a witness for Christ. He **did not waiver** from his message. He preached Christ **crucified**. He preached Christ **resurrected**. He preached that there was **no salvation in any other** for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby **we must be saved!**

- ✓ The **boldness** of these **common men** in God and a **changed life** could not be refuted. The Bible says, "they marveled" and "took knowledge of them" and **remembered Jesus**...
Mark 12:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:2; John 3:1-2; Luke 8:35; John 9:3

3. The religious people _____ the truth and **chose to deny** Christ and God. 4:15-22

- ✓ There was **no doubt** that the miracle was done and true because **all** in Jerusalem **saw** it...
Acts 4:16; John 11:47, 48; 12:18; Luke 6:10, 11

NOTE Mark it down. **PRIDE** was the motivating factor behind the religious leaders and people. For them to **acknowledge the truth** would mean true **repentance** toward God and **faith** toward the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Tim 2:22-26). Don't be fooled!! These men knew the truth (Rom 1:16-32; 3:18), and they **chose** to **REJECT** and **OPPOSE GOD!!** The Bible says that we have done the same thing to God...

- ✓ The religious people resorted to trying to **manipulate** them through **fleshly fear**...
Acts 4:17, 21; 2 Peter 2; Jude
- ✓ Peter and John chose to **obey** and **fear God more** than men...
Jude 1:16; John 12:43; Matthew 21:26; 28:4; Acts 13:16; 1 Peter 2:17

4. Peter and John's **testimony** to the _____ led to **greater** ministry **ownership**. 4:23-37

- ✓ They reported back to the church ("their company") all that was said and **praise, prayer,** and **powerful witnessing** followed...
Acts 14:27-28

NOTE This is important, and it is a pattern for us to follow. Your Gospel stories and mine matter!! Paul did this after each missionary journey. Be humble, and **SHARE** your stories with others to help them and their stories will in turn help you to have boldness in our God to **SPEAK** up on His behalf! The opposition from the enemy caused God's people to pray and empty themselves out to God which led to the Holy Ghost having more of them and they in turn having the power source to be powerful witnesses for Christ.

- ✓ They were willing to part with **earthly possessions** for the **eternal cause** of Christ...
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 6:33-34

PRACTICES1. What **truth from the Bible** has God made clear to you today that you **must believe**?

- ✓ Have you **been taught** something that goes contrary to what the **Bible clearly says**?
- ✓ Did God reveal a need for you to **speak** today's truth to others this week?

2. What has God revealed to you today related to **your personal life**?

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
- ✓ Have you been a **faithful witness** to our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ?

**** MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Upcoming Events ****

1. **New Members Class** There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for our first new Members class starting on **Sunday, 10/6 from 9-10am** (6 weeks)
2. **How to Study the Bible** There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for our first Wednesday night Bible study starting on **Wednesday, 10/2 from 7-8pm** (12 weeks)
3. **Prayer Meeting** We must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13) – we will begin having a corporate time of prayer each week beginning on **Wednesday, 10/2 at 6:30pm**
4. **Open House** The month of October is a **"Grand Opening"** to the community – invite others to check us out for free. ☺