

VIRAL

HOW THE GOSPEL SPREAD THEN AND NOW

Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 4:1-22

MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, Sep 4
Sunday, Sep 7

Introduction

notes

Acts 4:1-22

⁴And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

The gospel must be spoken. (v. 4)

The gospel greatly annoys those who seek to control and manipulate the masses. (v. 2)

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and the Caiaphas and John and Alexander and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Salvation in Jesus alone. (v. 12)

notes

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

The greatest argument for Jesus is a changed life. (v. 14)

Moving closer to Jesus one step at a time.

¹⁵But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." ¹⁸So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." ²¹And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

Where has God asked me to be bold for the name of Jesus?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Viral: How the Gospel Spread Then and Now.

GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth, Acts 4:1-22

September 4th & 7th, 2025

Salvation in Jesus alone.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is your favorite thing about the fall season?

Read Aloud: Acts 4:1-22

1. v. 12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Why is the path to salvation only through Jesus? What response would you give to each of the following three statements:

- a. I don't need to be saved.
- b. I can save myself.
- c. There are many ways to salvation.

2. v. 13-14 “13Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.” How has a relationship with Jesus changed you? What changed in Peter to make him bold? Is that your experience?

3. v. 18 “So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.” Why is the name of Jesus so controversial? Do you struggle to share about Jesus with others? Why is that? Where has God asked you to be bold for the name of Jesus?