

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 4:1-12

- We all know that blessings live next door to obedience, but of all the wonderful promises scripture makes to anyone who will live an obedient and Godly life, the one that none of us like to claim for ourselves is found in > **2Tim 3:12**- says “**all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus life will suffer persecution**” notice it doesn’t say “**might**” but “**will**” it’s a promise, a sure thing, that if we live an obedient, Godly life, that honors Jesus Christ, it will cost you some discomfort.

V1-12

- **V1-3** as a result of healing the lame man, and the preaching of the gospel, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the religious group “**the Sadducees**” have set their sights upon Peter and John and have arrested them. **V1** tell us who the persecutors were, and **V2** give us the reason for the persecution- they were upset that they taught the people that Jesus was the way, and that He has been raised from the dead and is alive and well for everyone to worship.
- This is a major problem because the Sadducees didn’t believe in a resurrection; or Angels and Spirits; their loyalty was in material wealth and the Roman government who provided it for them. This is why in the gospels upon hearing all that Jesus was doing in helping and blessing the people instead of rejoicing they were meeting in secret and plotting > **Jn 11:47-48**- afraid that they would lose their place on top of the social pyramid, as they were making a fortune off the people with all their religious rackets going on, and they did not want that to stop.
- Which is why Jesus overturned the temple twice, **1st** at the beginning of His public ministry, and then three years later at the end of His public ministry? In response **Jn 12:9-11**- they schemed about how they could silence both Jesus and Lazarus and the answer was to kill them both, this is what and who Peter and John were dealing with. **V4-7** although the Apostles are bound and put in prison that still doesn’t stop the Word of God from setting people free, because no matter what man does to you or me the Word of God cannot be bound or stopped > **Is 55:11**- as it never returns void, but will accomplish everything that God sent it out to do.
- After a night of incarceration, the Apostles are brought before the council that includes Annas the High Priest, Caiaphas the son in law of Annas; and John and Alexander, who we don’t know anything about except they were attempting to give a show of power that would intimidate Peter and John into recanting the things that they’ve said. What’s interesting is here are two simple fishermen standing before and in the midst of the highest leaders of the land, as in our time this would be equivalent of us presenting our case before the Supreme Court.
- I can’t help but think with all that is going on in society today, what if anyone who dare spoke the truth about Jesus, that those words would cost you your personal freedom, would you then be so bold as to open your mouth and allow God’s truth to come out?

- But then I remember that if I'm walking in truth now, then I've already given up my liberties in order to follow Jesus, and it may not have cost me my physical freedom yet, but it certainly has cost me everywhere else, relationally, financially, and socially > **Gal 2:20**. They ask them the question: "**by what power or by what name have you done this**" In **Mk 11:28** they also asked Jesus the same question, in doing all this these are two things Satan uses all the time to try and silence us from sharing or spreading the gospel > **1. Intimidation 2. Interrogation**
- **V8-9** we see Peter again responding in the Spirit, as he's once more being filled with the Spirit, showing that it is not a onetime event as so many wrongly teach today, we need to be constantly being filled with the Spirit as **Eph 5:18**- the context refers to a constant filling and not a onetime event. So he boldly speaks the gospel directly to the heart of the matter and asks are we being judged for doing a good deed? Is it a crime that a man has been healed he's asking!
- **V10-12** just as he did when the crowd thought it was he who healed the lame man Peter let it be known that it wasn't him or anyone else's power that healed this man but the Lord Jesus Christ Who has made this man whole. Then he gets even more specific by saying Yes the same Jesus whom you crucified and rejected, then quotes **Ps 118:22** in calling Jesus the "**Chief Cornerstone**" whom you rejected, in which there is no other name by which a person can be saved wow! Talk about an opening statement, Peter is going to leave no doubt about Who he is speaking of, and what the people need to do in order to make things right for themselves in the sight of God.
- For he uses a play on words that the religious people would definitely understand, **V9**- the term "**make whole**", is a translation from the same Greek word that is used for "**saved**". So this same man who you once looked at as cursed by God for being crippled, who couldn't even come into your place of worship as you saw him as so defiled is now "**made whole**" **saved**, and you whom you see as clean and able to worship the Lord are the ones in need of salvation being defiled yourselves with the sickness of sin, will you now come to the "**Great Physician**" and be healed!