

## Releasing Power to be Empowered Acts 4:1-22

**vs. 1-2**, Who was uncomfortable with Peter and John?

Why?

They were proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

Contrast -> There were five thousand who were not annoyed.

**vs. 7**, By what power or in what name have you done this? This is the pinnacle of the situation.

Why isn't it great news to know that God is alive and well and providing a wonderful rescue mission through his chosen Messiah?

Answer: POWER

Sadducees - Jewish person of privilege, those of exceptional rank, deemed as capable of making the best decisions, they had great power economically, socially, and politically

This included the High Priest who

- Guarded the place deemed most holy (holy of holies - the meeting place between God and his people).
- Oversaw the sacrificial system where God maintains and restores fellowship with his people.
- Did business with the Roman governor.
- They had troops and Temple police.

All very clear evidence of **power** and **influence**.

The resurrection is a threat to this worldview.

It is an attack on the status quo and it turns the ideas of power upside down.

The living God is going to restore all things.

With restoration comes change.

One side of the coin

But...I like the way things are. I make my own decisions.

The other side of the coin

But what about the Pharisees? Didn't they believe in the resurrection?

"I will make you conform." Let's cause as much trouble as possible and if I die for a noble cause so be it, my reward will come.

This type of attitude leads to vigilante justice.

Same foundational motivation -> POWER

Everything about Jesus is bad news to those in power.

**Question:** Which side of the coin do you find yourself as it relates to power? What are you holding on to so tightly that perhaps Jesus is asking you to let go of? What is it that the Spirit wants to change / restore in you?

**vs. 7**, By what power or in what name have you done this?

Deuteronomy 13 (Trying to implement the law to justify their actions and attitudes).  
Humans are experts at convenient reasoning.

**vs. 8**, filled with the Holy Spirit  
Jesus Christ of Nazareth has healed this man.

**vs. 11**, This Jesus is...

**Psalm 118:22**

**Daniel 2:35** But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

**Daniel 2:44** "In the days of those kings, the God of the heavens will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not be left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever.

There will be a time when all earthly manmade power and kingdoms will be done away with.  
Only God's kingdom will reign (heaven and earth).  
It will not end and it will not be destroyed.

**vs. 12**, Only Jesus saves!

The name of Jesus is not a weapon to be used to preserve power.  
That is what the arrogant, manipulative, and narcissist tries to do.

### Contrast

**vs. 13**, They had been with Jesus.

Peter and John lived their lives with Jesus for 3 years.

- Observed and participated night and day.
- Experienced and learned from him when he read scripture.
- Listened to him pray.
- Contemplated numerous moments of healing.
- Grappled with his death, resurrection, and ascension.

\*More is caught than taught

**Question:** Have you been with Jesus? Is your life organized in such a way that you quickly hear and listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit?

**vs. 19-20**, We are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Peter and John are not simply using the name of Jesus to serve their own agenda.  
They continue to learn the satisfaction of loyalty to their Savior.  
They are walking the narrow path of kingdom living.  
They are in the deep end of real God centered power / Kingdom power / healing power.

**1 Corinthians 4:20** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

A genuine follower of Jesus causes waves.  
Narrow path Kingdom living is costly it is part of the Spirit's transformation in your life.

**Question:** Is your relationship with Jesus disruptive? How has your life been disrupted by Jesus? How does Jesus through you disrupt the lives of others?

Living in the fullness of Jesus' truth is acknowledging our dependency on the giver of life (our Savior).