

I. THE APOSTLES <u>ARRESTED</u>. (v. 1-4)

A. (v. 1)

1. "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,"

- a. "the captain of the Temple"
 - There were multiple captains of the Temple (Luke 22:4, 52) - the "police force" of Levites who kept guard in and around the Temple.¹
 - 2) This guy is "the" captain (i.e. the Director of the Mossad)- the High Priest's right-hand man.
 - a) The Talmudists referred to him as "the man of the mountain of the house", or "the ruler of the mountain of the Temple."² His official title was "the Overseer of the Temple Mount."³

b. "the Sadducees"

- "Sadducees" LXX for Hebrew Zedukim descendants of the family of Zadok, Solomon's high priest, and their supporters, many of them priests. (2 Sam. 15:24-27; 1 Kings 2:35; Ezek. 40:46)
- 2) They were the <u>LIBERAL</u> religious group, established after the Babylonian Captivity.
 - a) They only accepted the Torah (Gen-Deut) as authoritative.
 - i. Rejected the oral law.

¹ Josephus, Antiquities 20, 6, 2; (B. D., under the word , 3; Edersheim, The Temple etc., chapter vii., 2 edition, p. 119f) <u>http://</u> <u>concordances.org/greek/4755.htm</u> Thayer's Greek Lexicon

² Lightfoot, Horae Hebraicae Et Talmudicae, Vol. 4, p. 42.

³ "m. Middot 1:2. For additional details on the Temple police, see: Emil Schürer, The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ: Volume II (London: Bloomsbury, 1973), pp. 277-278; Alfred Edersheim, The Temple: Its Ministry and Services, As They Were At the Time of Jesus Christ (London: The Religious Tract Society, 1874), pp. 75-76." Excerpt From: Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum. "Commentary Series: The Book of Acts." Apple Books.



- ii. Held the writings of the prophets of less value.
- b) They were the materialists.
 - i. No bodily resurrection; no angels; no afterlife; etc.
 - ii. Explained the miracles away in the O.T. by rational means.
- 3) Though there weren't many Sadducees (~1,000), they were the large majority on the Sanhedrin (i.e. the Supreme Court of 71 men).
- 4) They were <u>WEALTHY</u> and <u>POLITICALLY ACTIVE</u>, having the favor of the Roman government and the Herods.
 - a) They controlled the economy of the Temple the moneychangers in the Temple area so the people could buy "Rabbi-certified" sacrifices.
 - b) They wanted to retain their wealth and influence, therefore they tried to keep public order in the Temple area. The Romans were very tolerant, except when there was civil unrest.
 - c) This is why they were probably agitated by Peter and John causing commotion.
- c. "came upon them" Gr. "burst upon them suddenly"
 - 1) They clearly came with <u>HOSTILITY</u> against Peter and John.

B. (v. 2)

1. "Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead."

a. "grieved" - Gr. Gr. "worked up; indignant; troubled; displeased; offended; annoyed; disturbed"



- b. They were grieved for <u>TWO REASONS</u>:
 - 1) "They taught the people"
 - a) They didn't believe the Apostles were qualified to teach spiritual things, and they didn't want their influence because they would end up losing their power and money.
 - 2) "And preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead."
 - a) This is a theological war between the materialists and spiritualists.
 - b) The Sadducees denied the resurrection and they had already rejected Jesus as the Messiah.
- C. (v. 3)

1. "And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide."

- a. It said in the Mishnah, "Judgments about money may be commenced in the day and concluded in the night, but judgments about life must be begun in the day and concluded in the day" (Sanhedrin 4.1).⁴
 - 1) However, they didn't keep this law in regards to Jesus, thus His trial was illegal.
- b. "for it was now eventide"
 - 1) This all started with the lame man at about 3:00pm (Acts 3:1).

D. (v. 4)

⁴ Guzik, David. "Study Guide for Acts 4." Enduring Word. Blue Letter Bible. 7 Jul 2006. 2013. 19 Apr 2013. <u><http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?</u> <u>AuthorID=2&contentID=7957&commInfo=31&topic=Acts ></u>



- **1.** "Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."
 - a. "men" Gr. "males"
 - 1) This Greek word does not include the women who also may have come to saving faith as a result of Peter's second sermon!
 - 2) At this point, the Church in Jerusalem is at least 8,120 people (1:13-15; 2:41).
 - a) 120 disciples (1:13-15) + 3,000 on the day of Pentecost (2:41) + 5,000 men after this 2nd Sermon. (4:4) = **8,120+ disciples**!!!

II. THE APOSTLES <u>EXAMINED</u>. (v. 5-12)

- A. (v. 5)
 - **1.** "And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,"
 - a. "their rulers"
 - 1) The <u>LEADERS</u> of the Sanhedrin
 - a) Cf. Luke 23:13, 35; 24:20; John 3:1; 7:26, 48; 12:42; Acts 3:17; 4:5, 8; 13:27; 14:5
 - b. "elders"
 - 1) OLDER MEMBERS of the Sanhedrin
 - C. "scribes"
 - 1) Those entrusted with the application and interpretation of the Law and the Oral tradition.



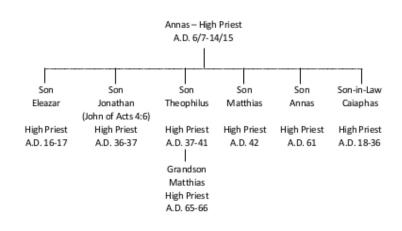
B. (v. 6)

- 1. "And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem."
 - a. "Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas"
 - 1) This was an interesting time when there were 2 High Priests. (cf. Luke 3:2)
 - a) <u>Annas</u> = recognized by the people
 - i. He instituted the corrupt money-making system in the Court of the Gentiles of the Temple where the moneychangers would exploit the people who came to worship and offer sacrifices.
 - b) <u>Caiaphas</u> = son-in-law of Annas, appointed by the Roman gov't; not recognized by the people.
 - b. "John, and Alexander"
 - We don't know who these guys are, but the fact that Luke is writing this legal document to Theophilus, a Roman official (1:1-3), and names these guys, means that they must have been well known men at that time in Jerusalem.
 - 2) <u>SPECULATION</u> about their identities:
 - a) <u>JOHN</u>:
 - i. Some scholars speculate that John may be Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai.
 - He was a very famous leader of Israel between 30-40AD,⁵ a descendant of the House of David.⁶

⁵ Adam and Clark Commentary on Acts 4:6 http://classic.studylight.org/com/acc/view.cgi?book=ac&chapter=004



- He studied under Rabbi Hillel⁷ and was a primary contributor to the Mishna and Talmud, the core texts to Rabbinical Judaism.
- c. He was active in opposing the Sadducees' interpretations of Jewish law, but would have joined them in coming against the Church.
- d. He found favor with Vespasian, so when the Temple was destroyed, he let Jochanan move the Jewish religious center to Yavne, out of which emerged Rabbinic Judaism.
- e. In Yavne he re-established the Sanhedrin so that Judaism could decide how to deal with the loss of the sacrificial alters, and they decided to replace sacrifices with prayers (referring to Hosea 6:6). This practice continues today.
- ii. Other scholars speculate that *John* may have been the son of Annas the High Priest.



b) <u>ALEXANDER</u>:

⁷ http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/8724-johanan-b-zakkai

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- i. some scholars speculate that he may be Alexander the Alabarch (senior customs official).
 - a. Also known as Lysimachus.⁸⁹
 - b. He was a Roman citizen, and one of the wealthiest Jews of that time.
 - c. He was highly esteemed by <u>the High</u> <u>Priest</u>.
 - He had the 9 gates of the Temple in Jerusalem overlaid with massive plates of silver and gold, a gift which one can assume would have placed him on very good terms with the High Priest and others.¹⁰
 - d. He was also highly esteemed by <u>Herod</u> <u>Agrippa</u>.
 - ~35 AD, Agrippa sailed to Alexandria and begged Alexander for a loan of 200,000 drachmas (about \$41.6 million today)¹¹. (Antiquities 18.159-160)
 - e. He may have had ancestral ties to the Hasmoneans and the priesthood.¹²
 - f. His brother was the famous philosopher Philo Judaeus.
 - g. His son, Alexander Tiberius, married Berenice, the daughter of Herod

⁸ Adam and Clark Commentary on Acts 4:6 <u>http://classic.studylight.org/com/acc/view.cgi?book=ac&chapter=004</u>

⁹ http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/1146-alexander-lysimachus

¹⁰ http://kassevans.com/Alexander/AlexanderTheAlabarch_RomanAndJew-Summary.html

¹¹ Cf. Luke 15:8-9 - 1 drachma = 1 denarius = 1 day's wage (Average income in USA in 2011 was 50,502 = 26/hour = 208/day, x 200,000 = 41.6 million)

¹² http://kassevans.com/Alexander/AlexanderTheAlabarch_RomanAndJew-Summary.html 7 of 19



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Agrippa I (cf. Acts 25:13), and was governor of Judea after Cuspius Fadus. (Josephus, Ant. I. xix. c. 5, s. 1)

C. (v. 7)

1. "And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?"

- a. This was the leading question which was designed to elicit selfincrimination.
 - 1) They didn't have the 5th Amendment in their Constitution.
- b. **NOTE**: The healing of the lame man was a "sign and wonder," and in their Law, they had a legal basis to question the Apostles.
 - 1) Cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-5 -"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn [you] away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee."

D. (v. 8)



- **1.** *"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,"*
 - a. "Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit"
 - 1) Last week, we looked at the characteristics of those men that God used to reach their generation with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - a) So far, we discovered that they were ordinary men of prayer, men of faith, men who denied the self-life of fame and glory, men of the Word, etc...
 - b) Now, we see one more characteristic of the Person God Uses — <u>A Person that is *Filled with the Holy*</u> <u>Spirit</u>!!
 - 2) Peter has been to this place before, on the night of Jesus' arrest.
 - a) Cf. Matthew 27: 26:57-59, 69-75 - "And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; ... Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."



- 3) **NOTE**: The last time Peter was here, he was so fearful of the power of this Council that he denied that he ever knew Jesus. However, this time Peter is right in the midst of the Council and he is on trial. He is not standing by the fire, but he is now in the fire.
 - a) He is not denying Jesus in front of a servant girl but boldly proclaiming to the whole council that Jesus is the only way to salvation!
 - b) Q = How can you possibly explain such a radical difference in a man in just a few short weeks?...
 "Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit"!!!
- 4) **KEY**: The *filling of the Holy Spirit* is the **power** that Jesus was talking about when He promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
 - a) Cf. Luke 12:11-12 Jesus had told His disciples, "And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say."
 - b) Cf. Luke 21:12-15 Jesus also said, "But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."
- 5) **KEY**: The power of the Holy Spirit is necessary for any endeavor for Christ! Oh, how we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit!
- E. (v. 9)
 - 1. "If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;"



- a. Peter puts this whole trial in perspective.
 - 1) All of this fuss has been created because a lame man is walking.
 - Peter is basically saying, "This lame man is walking, so these charges are lame!!"

F. (v. 11)

1. "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

- a. Cf. **Psalm 118:22** w/ Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:4, 6
 - When King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem, all the stones for the Temple were precut at the quarry (site of Golgotha) and delivered to the site. (1 Kings 5:17; 6:37; 7:9)
 - a) **LEGEND**: The Cornerstone was sent to the Temple, but they didn't recognize it. Well, when they finished the project, they checked their inventory because they were missing the last piece, the Cornerstone. Then they realized it was the one they had rejected at first, but then dug it up and finished the Temple.
 - 2) This Psalm was sung by the pilgrims every year for centuries, as they were traveling to Jerusalem for the Passover.

G. (v. 12)

1. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

a. Peter is claiming that salvation is through Jesus Christ <u>ALONE</u>!



- The Bible says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" (1 Tim. 2:5)
- 2) Some will say, "That is too narrow!"
 - a) Jesus Himself said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:13-15)
 - b) Some think there are many roads to God, but Solomon said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)
- b. Jesus Himself claimed to be the <u>ONLY</u> way of salvation (John 14:6)!
 - 1) This radical claim forces people into a decision.
 - a) Jesus is either: 1) telling the truth; or 2) lying.
 - b) Jesus is either: 1) the only way to God; or 2) not the only way to God.
 - i. If you say He is NOT the only way, then you have to say that Jesus is a liar that is not worthy to be trusted.
 - ii. If you believe that He is trustworthy, then you must go through Him alone to get to God!
- c. "name" Gr. "reputation; character"
 - 1) Those Jewish leaders believed that salvation only comes through YHVH, which the Jews call HaShem ("*the Name"*)
 - a) The Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah, "*Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from*



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ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I <u>the LORD</u>? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." (Isaiah 45:21-22)

- b) **KEY**: The Jewish leaders would know by Peter's statement, that he is claiming the Deity of Jesus of Nazareth!
- Salvation only comes through the "name" of Jesus Christ! You can't be saved any other way!
 - a) This is demonized by our pluralistic (COEXIST) society. This is considered "hate speech", but it's the truth!

III. THE APOSTLES <u>THREATENED</u>. (v. 13-22)

- A. (v. 13)
 - **1.** "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."
 - a. "unlearned" Gr. agrammatos "unlettered; uneducated"
 - 1) This means that they were untrained in Rabbinic schools.
 - b. "ignorant" Gr. "unrefined; unlearned"
 - 1) In other words, they were just laymen. They were not scholars.
 - 2) **NOTE**: I love it that God can use ordinary fishermen, that have had no theological training, and use them to change the world for Jesus Christ!
 - a) **Illust**. So many of the Calvary Chapel pastors are not trained in the elite seminaries, but are ordinary



men that are filled with the Holy Spirit, and learn and teach the Bible.

- 3) **KEY**: You don't have to have a formal education to be used mightily by God! You just need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and person that is usable by God!
- c. "they <u>had been</u> with Jesus"
 - 1) They were wrong to think that they *had been with Jesus* because Jesus was right there with them!
 - a) Cf. Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
 - b) Cf. Matthew 28:20 "...Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - c) Cf. John 14:18-19 "I will not leave you orphans: <u>I</u> will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; <u>but ye see me</u>: because I live, ye shall live also."
 - 2) **KEY**: Jesus is always present in our hour of trial!
 - a) Later on is Acts, Luke will write about a time that Paul was deeply discouraged, and said, "And the night following <u>the Lord stood by him</u>, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome." (Acts 23:11)
 - b) Then, Paul would write to Timothy, "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me..." (2 Timothy 4:16-17)

B. (v. 14)



- **1.** "And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it."
 - a. The lame man was not sitting there, but <u>standing</u> with them! He couldn't do this 24 hours before!
 - 1) **NOTE**: I think that the greatest witness that the church can have before the skeptical world is a lame man standing whole among them.
 - **2) KEY:** Your transformed life is a powerful testimony to the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

C. (v. 18)

1. "And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus."

- a. The Supreme Court in the land of Israel is giving them a legal order to stop speaking about Jesus Christ.
 - 1) **Q** = What would be your response to such an order?...
 - a) Jesus said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matt 10:28)
- b. **Q** = How did Peter and John respond?... verses 19-20!
 - 1) There are times for civil disobedience according to the Bible.
 - a) Generally, as Christians we are to obey the government (Rom. 13:1-7).
 - b) However, we cannot obey the government when their mandates would cause us to disobey God.
 - i. Jesus said to preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15) and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
 - a. In some places in the world, it is against the law to speak to others



about Jesus with the intent to convert them to Christianity. Well, we need to obey God rather than man.

- ii. The Word of God commands believers to gather and assemble together.
 - a. Cf. Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
 - b. **Illust**. Last year, our CA governor shut down churches because of the pandemic, which all did for a couple months. However, many churches, including some of our Calvary Chapel fellowships, were fined heavily for disobeying the mandate, but we serve a higher mandate - God's commands.
- iii. There have been other times in Biblical history where believers had to defy the mandates of the government. (Cf. Daniel 1:8; 3:16-18; 6:10)

IV. THE APOSTLES <u>PRAYER</u>. (v. 23-30)

A. (v. 24)

- **1.** "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:"
 - a. **NOTE**: The first thing they did when they faced a trial was <u>PRAY</u>!!!

V. THE APOSTLES <u>PRAYER ANSWERED</u>. (v. 31)



A. (v. 31)

- 1. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."
 - a. "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"
 - 1) **NOTE**: They were *filled with the Holy Spirit* on the Day of Pentecost (2:1-4), and now they are *filled* again!
 - 2) **KEY**: This shows that the filling of the Holy Spirit was not a one-time event, but subsequent events in their lives.
 - b. "and they spake the word of God with boldness"
 - 1) God answered their prayer!! (v. 29)

VI. THE <u>COMMUNITY</u> OF THE BELIEVERS. (v. 32-37)

A. (v. 34-35)

- 1. "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."
 - a. Some have wrongly tried to say that this condones communism.
 - b. This does NOT speak of COMMUNISM:
 - 1) This giving was a VOLUNTARY act of the believers in Jerusalem (Acts 5:4).
 - 2) The Greek tense of verse 34 indicates that varying portions were sold according to the conscience of the individuals; it was not a one-time act.
 - 3) This action was largely based upon a misconception concerning the Second Coming.



- a) The Jewish believers felt strongly that Jesus would return in their lifetime (John 21:18-19).
- 4) This practice was limited to the church in Jerusalem and did not spread to the other churches.
- 5) It ended up being a mistake because it caused the church in Jerusalem to become poor, and the Gentile churches had to financially help them (Acts 11:27-30; 24:17; Rom. 15:25-27; Gal. 2:10).
 - a) After everyone had been sold and distributed, there was nothing left in the common pot!
- **B.** (v. 36-37)
 - 1. "And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."
 - a. "Barnabas"
 - 1) Was from the Tribe of Levi.
 - a) Thus, a Jewish Messianic believer.
 - b) NOTE: Under the Law, it was forbidden for Levites to own land (Num. 18:20, 23; Deut. 10:9).
 However, Barnabas was not disobedient because he was living *outside* the Land of Israel. That Law was only for those Levites living *inside* the Land.
 - 2) Was from the island of Cypress, but now living in Jerusalem.
 - 3) Was the Uncle of John Mark, the author of the Gospel of Mark. (Col. 4:10)
 - 4) Was the one that persuaded the Jerusalem Church to receive Paul (Acts 9:27).
 - 5) Moved to Antioch and brought Paul there to teach the disciples there (Acts 11:25-26).



- 6) Had the gift of apostleship (Acts 14:14).
- 7) Sold his land and gave it to the Church.