

Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 4-5

Lesson 4

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 4,5

1. Read through this week's verses using both Bible and another Bible translation or paraphrase.

After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.

Chapter 4: Key Words: God, Jesus (and titles of Jesus), Holy Spirit, Peter or John, boldness, power, name, witness, and resurrection/ believed/ saved/ salvation

Chapter 5: Key Words: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, apostles, Satan/ lied, name, raised, and witnesses

3. The word *but* was used five times in Acts 4 and ten times in Acts 5. Choose one of those times (in each chapter) and record what is being contrasted.

PETER AND JOHN ARRESTED: Read Acts 4:1-12

1. In Acts chapter 3, Luke recorded the story of the healing of a man that was lame. Peter, aware of the amazement of the onlookers, seized the opportunity to proclaim the name of the true healer, Jesus. Acts 4 begins with the response of the religious leaders.

Why were they disturbed? Acts 23:8

If their beliefs were correct, Jesus couldn't have risen from the dead. What simple thing could they have done to prove that they were right?

2. As Peter stood before the religious council, the day after his imprisonment, we are told he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Using Matthew 10:17-20 answer the following questions:

What did Jesus warn would happen to them? verse 17

Why would this take place? verse 18

How would they know what to say in these situations? verses 19,20

3. Acts 4:4 begins with a glorious word. What is it?

In spite of the rejection of the religious leaders, what was the result of Peter's preaching?

4. What key question was asked of Peter as he stood before the religious leaders? Acts 4:7

Using verse 10, record Peter's answer.

What name did Peter give?
What did he say they had done
with this Jesus of Nazareth?

What did he say God had done
with this same Jesus?

5. What did Peter compare Jesus to in Acts 4:11?

Peter loved this description of Jesus. Summarize what he wrote in 1 Peter 2:4-8.

In what ways do people stumble over Jesus?

Reflect back to the times before you recognized Jesus to be your chief cornerstone. In what ways did you stumble over Him?

6. Bask in the wonder of Acts 4:12. What is it about this name of Jesus that makes it unique above all others, and which makes it absolutely necessary to submit to?

THE NAME OF JESUS FORBIDDEN: Read Acts 4:13-31

1. What stood out to the religious leaders as they watched and listened to Peter and John?

They reacted in the same way to Jesus. Record their question and Jesus' answer using John 7:15,16.

This same power and wisdom that Jesus had access to, that the apostles had access to, is available to all believers. What are some of the hindrances to this access?

Look again at Matthew 10:20. Who did Jesus say would speak through the apostles?

What are some ways you have learned to identify when the Holy Spirit is speaking to you?

2. As the leaders marveled at Peter and John, what did they recognize about them? Acts 4:13b

What are some of the evidences that someone has been with Jesus?

3. Acts 4:14-18 tells us that the leaders conferred among themselves saying, "What shall we do with these men? Realizing the lame man had truly been healed, they could not deny his healing.

What did they decide to do?

4. Record Peter and John's answer from verses 19,20.

What did John share about what he had seen in John 1:14?

What did Peter share about what he had seen and heard in 2 Peter 1:16-18?

What have you spiritually seen and heard that qualifies you to be a witness?

5. And being let go...(Acts 4:23), what did Peter and John (and their companions) do? See verse 24.

What did they:

Proclaim about God?

Request?

How does it impact you that they prayed for boldness?

6. What three things happened when they prayed? verse 31

TRUTH OR LIE?: Read Acts 4:32-5:11

1. What key words in verse 32 describe the unity of the believers?

As a unique moment in history, how did they regard their property and possessions and what was the result of this perspective? verse 32-37

Although we do not practice communal living, what can we learn from their example?

How does 2 Corinthians 8:13,14 amplify this attitude?

2. Acts 4 closes with the story of Barnabas selling his land and laying the proceeds at the apostles' feet. Chapter 5 begins with the contrasting word but. Although Ananias and Sapphira also sold their land, what did they do differently?

What phrase did Peter use in verse 3 to describe what Ananias did?

What phrase did Peter use in verse 9 to describe what Sapphira did?

In what way do you think lying is similar to testing the Spirit of the Lord?

3. Although many believers were selling their possessions, this was not a requirement made by God or the apostles. Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira lied about giving all of the proceeds?

In what ways do people try to obtain undue credit or recognition?

Although we may not drop dead as a consequence of misrepresenting our actions, what does Jeremiah 17:10 remind us?

4. What happened to Ananias and Sapphira?

How did their demise affect the church?
verse 11

Why is it good to fear God?

MIRACLES AND PRISON: Read Acts 5:12-42

1. And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people (Acts 5:12).

Read verses 13-16 and record the various results.

2. Then the high priest rose up and all who were with him (Acts 5:17). Share the sad contrast of their responses in verses 17,18.

3. But an angel of the Lord brought them out ... Acts 5:19. What did he tell them to do?

4. Recapping Acts 5:21-26: Peter and John obeyed the angel. They walked through the doors the angel had opened. They entered the temple and taught. When they could not be found in the prison, one came and told them they were standing in the temple teaching the people. Then the captain went and brought them without violence for they feared the people. The church feared God; the soldiers feared the people. Contrast these two kinds of fear.

5. Ponder Acts 5:28. What did the high priest ask Peter and John?

What did they acknowledge that these apostles had accomplished?

What did they declare to be the apostles' intention?

Although they did not understand the significance of what they had said, what does Colossians 1:14 teach us?

6. Summarize Peter's bold response in Acts 5:29-32.
7. Although the religious leaders were intent on killing Peter and John, a Pharisee named Gamaliel stepped forward and shared great wisdom; Write Acts 5:39

8. And when they had called for the apostles and beaten them... (Acts 5:40). So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name (verse 41). ... they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ (verse 42).

Note the gamut of experiences of Peter and John; especially their response to how they had been treated. What do you learn from this?

REVIEW: Read Acts 4 and 5

1. What are some of the risks in telling others about Christ?

What are some of the benefits?

2. When we pray, why is it helpful to recall the things God has done in the past?

3. What did you learn from the example of the believers in the early church that you can apply to your life?

4. How is obeying God rather than man not grievous, but rather freeing?

5. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by this lesson?