



# THE CHURCH AT ITS BEST!

## CONTEXT:

### ACTS 4:8-24

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

<sup>13</sup>When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup>But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. <sup>15</sup>So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. <sup>16</sup>"What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup>But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

<sup>18</sup>Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup>But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup>As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

<sup>21</sup>After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. <sup>22</sup>For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

<sup>23</sup>On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.



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# THE CHURCH IS AT ITS BEST WHEN . . .

1

produce

*"They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; **so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.**" ACTS 4:3-4*

2

creates

*"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, **ordinary men**, they were astonished and **they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**" ACTS 4:13*

3

overcomes

*"When they heard this, **they raised their voices together in prayer to God.** 'Sovereign Lord,' they said, 'you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.'" ACTS 4:24*

4

God uses

*"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.'" ACTS 4:8-10*

*"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all...**" ACTS 4:32-33*

