

Christ is _____ Issue

We have before us this morning the account of the _____ trial of the Apostles Peter and John before the Sanhedrin of the Jewish nation. It is clear from this passage that the entire _____ for both the Sanhedrin and the Apostles was the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's take careful note of _____ things:

- I. THE DEMAND OF CHRIST'S _____
- II. THE DECLARATION OF CHRIST'S _____

I. The Demand of Christ's Foes (Acts 4:5-7) In these verses we are going to meet the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ and find out what their problem was with the disciples. Of course, at the very outset let me explain the _____ issue: Jesus Christ! Christ is why the enemies of Christ became the enemies of the _____.

A. The Quorum of _____. (Acts 4:5-6)

The _____ – Open Power and Hidden Power - First, there were the Sadducees who are here called the _____ (ἄρχων archon meaning head, chief, people with authority). They were mainly made up of the _____ and were allied with the Romans. They were pro-Greek in their philosophy and were theologically _____, rejecting the supernatural entirely. They were against Christ because He exploded their liberal beliefs and represent a threat to their scheme for making _____. They were led by _____ who was the ex-high priest (AD 7-14) and father-in-law of Caiaphas who was the actual high priest at that time, though the title clung to Annas. Caiaphas was high priest according to _____ law, but Annas was the actual high priest in the opinion of the majority of the _____. They, with John and Alexander, are the leaders among the Sadducees in pressing the case against Peter and John. Their motive was _____ and _____.

The _____ - Then there were the Elders (πρεσβυτέρους presbuterous – important for experience and wealth). These people were the landed aristocracy of the Holy Land. They represented the heads of the important families. While they had some Sadducees and Pharisees, they were overwhelmingly Herodians in orientation, and as such they were almost completely political. They appeared to be pro-Roman, but like their patron, King Herod, they were all about staying in power and keeping their money. They hated Christ because He was a King and they would not have Him to reign over them. Their motive was _____ and _____.

The _____ (and Pharisees) - The third group were the scribes (γραμματεὺς grammateus – writers, copyists, and doctors of the law) and they were almost entirely made up of _____ (literally meaning the “righteous ones.”) They were deeply religious and very _____. They were highly educated, skilled at copying Scripture, which they thought they alone understood, and were

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Key Verses: Acts 4:5-12; Matthew 12:24-34; Psalm 118:22; Luke 20:9-18; I Peter 2:4-8

openly anti-Roman. They hated Christ because He refused to accept their authority and spoke often against their strained legalistic interpretations of the Scripture. Their motive was _____ and _____.

B. The Quandary of the _____ - “And when they (the full 71 member Sanhedrin of the Jews) had _____ (ἵστημι histemi – stood them up, made them stand up) them (two fishermen and a formerly lame beggar) in the midst (μέσῳ meso – in the middle)...”

C. The _____ of Authorization- “And when they had set them in the midst, they asked (imperfect verb from πυνθάνομαι punthanomai, – multiple demands or inquiries repeatedly made) , “By what _____ (δυνάμει dunamei - ability or strength) or by what _____ (ὀνόματι onomati by virtue of uttered name, authority) have _____ done this?”” (Acts 4:7, NKJV) Remember that the Jewish leaders had brought down the wrath of the Lord Jesus Christ on them. Jesus took the offer of the _____ off the table in Matthew ____ when they blasphemed against the Holy Spirit after Jesus healed a blind, deaf, mute demon-possessed man: “Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”” (Matthew 12:24, NKJV)

From this point on, the Pharisees sought the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ. From this point on, the Lord Jesus Christ took the _____ of the Kingdom off the table for the time being. He started speaking to them only in _____, and the nation as whole was doomed to dispersion and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD _____. Now a few weeks after the crucifixion, these same leaders are reinforcing their condemnation. They are faced with _____ miracle. It was standing directly before them in the person of the healed lame man. The spiritual leaders of the Jews could not _____ the miracle. In fact, they acknowledged it as such. saying, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.” Acts 4:16

III. **The Declaration of Christ's _____** (Acts 4:8-12)

The Real Issue - One thing all the _____ of Christ (priests, elders, scribes) and His _____ could agree upon was the fact that the real _____ was clearly the Lord Jesus Christ. And Peter was going for the real problem! So today, let's not get distracted from the real issue. The problem is not religious liberalism or rightwing politics. The problem is not immorality or materialism. The problem is that people still _____ the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Consequence of Spirit _____ - On every occasion, those who were so filled spoke _____ so also in the command of Paul for believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:18-19). One clear scriptural proof of being filled with the Spirit was speaking out boldly when human wisdom would have counseled silence.

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A. The _____ for the Miracle – (Acts 4:8-10) “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, **“Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:”** (Acts 4:8, NKJV) Peter directly addresses these leaders and his tone is _____, but even these words have an edge. Men who should have led Israel ____ Messiah drove Israel _____ from Him and, because of their unbelief, have brought rejection, dispersion, and misery on the nation. **“If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,”** (Acts 4:9, NKJV) Peter’s introductory statement raised the question of the legitimacy of his and John’s arrest. In effect, Peter was declaring, “We (John and I) are here before this tribunal of Israel’s spiritual leaders to be _____ (condemned) for this _____ deed...by what means, you ask, he [better this man] has been made well?”

Peter’s Declared Audience - “let it be known to you all, and to all the _____ of Israel...” (Acts 4:10, NKJV) Yes, Peter is addressing the Sanhedrin, but he is going beyond them to the entire nation of Israel. The rulers may have passed the sentence of death on their Messiah, but the people went _____ with it, and now they are either going to turn to Christ, or they will suffer the consequences.

Peter’s Dramatic _____ - **“...that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...”** (Acts 4:10, NKJV) The _____ question of verse 9 was thus answered. The miracle occurred by the inherent significance of the consummate _____ of Jesus Christ. This physical healing was through that NAME. In verse 12, Peter declared decisively that spiritual salvation is also through that NAME, and in that NAME ALONE! Luke adds “Of Nazareth”...clarified the Lord Jesus Christ’s specific _____, so that no one could doubt which Jesus was being referred to here.

Peter’s Devastating _____ - **“...whom you crucified....”** (Acts 4:10, NKJV) Whom _____ crucified (in the Greek it is emphatic – **you yourselves**) We must bear in mind that Peter, a lowly fisherman, was addressing the highest _____ in Israel. He did not mince words. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and boldly presented the facts of the case. The Sanhedrin was directly responsible for putting their _____ to death. But we also must bear responsibility since Christ died for our sins.

Peter’s _____ Assertion - **“...whom God raised from the dead,** by Him this man stands here before you whole.” (Acts 4:10, NKJV) Whom (Jesus Christ) God _____ from the dead – everything hinges upon the resurrection of Christ...a _____ Jesus could do nothing for anyone. If Christ had not been raised, Peter would have never had the bravery to stand before the Sanhedrin. If Christ had not been raised, this lame man would still be _____ in the Temple. The resurrection makes all the difference, and the Gospel is open, even to those who condemned and murdered Christ! It was for them He died!

Peter’s _____ Evidence - **“...that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...by Him this man stands here before you whole.”** (Acts 4:10, NKJV) “By Him...the resurrected _____...this

man (the formerly lame man everyone knew for they had seen him begging for nearly 40 years) stands whole in your very presence ...This demonstrative pronoun (this) indicates that the lame man was with the disciples and that Peter was pointing directly at him. Thus, Peter decisively answers their question and shows the undeniable **proof**!

B. The Accountability of the _____: (Acts 4:11)

A Scriptural _____ - “This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’” v.11 This [one referring to Christ] is the source of the miracle. Turning from the healed man, Peter here pivots to the Scripture. ***Our faith does not rest on _____ of miraculous demonstration, but on the _____ of the Living God.*** He quotes Psalm 118:22 with a slight modification: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone...which was rejected by **YOU** builders.” He adds the emphatic plural **YOU** _____ which includes the Sanhedrin and all Israel in general.

A Shocking _____ - While constructing the Temple in Jerusalem, an odd shaped _____ was delivered to the building site. The workers believed it must be a _____ because it was different from what they expected. They promptly pushed it over the Temple mount. When the chief builder arrived, he asked if they had the cornerstone, the odd-shaped, load bearing stone that held everything together. The workers had to admit their mistake and drag the _____ stone back up the hill to take its key and proper place in the Temple. The Pharisees recognized this as a Messianic _____ referred to in Psalm 118:22. Peter personalizes this prophecy. This very Sanhedrin had rejected the Lord Jesus Christ because He did not live up to their expectations as Messiah. They were _____ for a general to defeat the Romans – another David. What they got was “David’s _____” Who came to slay the giant of SIN. Peter was reminding them of their personal guilt and responsibility and expands it to cover _____ of Israel. They were all guilty of rejecting the Chief Cornerstone.

C. The Acceptance of _____ (Acts 4:12) Having proven that the leaders and the people had rejected their Messiah and demonstrated that Judaism could do _____ for this poor beggar, Peter points to what only Christ can do. Christ is the _____ way to salvation!

What Salvation Are You Talking About? - “Nor is there salvation...we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 The salvation - ἡ σωτηρία [he soteria] Definitely in view here is _____ salvation, the deliverance from sin and its results that all men _____ and that God _____.