

Sermon Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

What was most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon?

Digging Deeper:

1. See John 11:47-48; Luke 20:27-40; Acts 23:6-10. What do you understand about temple officials?
 - a. Why were the Sadducees uncomfortable with the disciples' message?
 - b. What type of Christian or Christian message would make you most nervous to be associated with?
2. "But the Sadducees...take away fate entirely, and suppose that God is not concerned in our doing or not doing what is evil; and they say, that to act what is good, or what is evil, is at men's own choice...They also take away the belief of the immortal duration of the soul, and the punishments and rewards in Hades...The behavior of the Sadducees one towards another is in some degree wild, and their conversation with those that are of their own party is as barbarous as if they were strangers to them."
 - a. How do the Sadducees religious beliefs give justification for their unkind behavior?
 - b. "All religions, especially Christianity are means of maintaining power over people" How would you use Acts 4:1-22 and other passages to persuade this person's opinion?
3. "I can't believe in Christianity because it's too exclusive. Especially Acts 4:12." What do you think a person means by this statement? See Psa 118:20-22; Acts 2:5-12; 1 Pet 2:4-8. How is Jesus as Cornerstone the most inclusive and most exclusive truth?

Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

4. Pray: "[Christian] boldness is acting, by the power of the Holy Spirit, on an urgent conviction in the face of some threat." See acts 4:13. Why does 'being with Jesus' create boldness? Where in your life have you found this to be true?

- a. Where/what do you need the Spirit's help in being bold in your faith?