

Acts 4:1-31 – The Bold Church

Greg Wendschlag February 20, 2022

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Key Word: Together

The Governing Structure of Israel

- The Sanhedrin: Two party, 70 member Civil and Religious ruling body.
- Pharisees: Party of the people. Held to the OT scriptures as well as religious traditions, experts in the law.
- Sadducees: Party of the elite. Did not believe in the resurrection, rationalists, ethically rather than theologically oriented.
- Temple Guard: The Temple police force.
- High Priest: Leader of the Temple priests. Familial corruption kept High Priestly position in a single family for decades. (John 18: Annas and Caiaphas)

The Miraculous Gospel: The Problem for the Religious Leaders

"They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John...and they put them in jail until the next day. But the number of those who believed grew to 5000." Vs 2-4

"They began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"" Vs 6-7

"What are we going to do with these men? Everybody knows they have done an outstanding miracle and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." Vs 16-18

The Defense of the Apostles

"Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit said to them, "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."" Vs 10-12

"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Vs 19-20

The Church Prays Vs 23-31

- Acknowledge the Sovereign Lord and be filled with faith.
- Acknowledge God's presence among and control over the opposition.
- Ask God for great boldness vs deliverance.
- Ask God for a demonstration of power vs vengeance.
- God responded with the outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

"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..." Vs 13