

To the Ends of the Earth: Session 7
Arrested
Acts 4:1-31

Questions

1. Acts 4 is a continuation of what happened in chapter 3. What happened in Acts 3?

A lame man is healed. The crowd is amazed by the miracle. Peter uses the miracles as an opportunity to preach Christ.

2. What happens as Acts 4 begins?

As Peter and John spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple (Police Chief of the temple), and Sadducees came upon Peter and John.

The first thing the Jerusalem authorities did was attempt to intimidate the disciples. In the Greek there is an emphasis that does not come across as strongly in English but indicates that when the priests, the captain of the guard, and the Sadducees came upon Peter and John, they came upon them suddenly. That is, they did not just meander up out of the back of the crowd and begin to talk to them. One moment Peter and John were there teaching earnestly. The next moment, there were the soldiers. They must have said, "Enough of this," grabbed them, and taken them away. -- Boice

3. Why were the priests and Sadducees disturbed?

Peter and John were preaching the resurrection of the dead. The Sadducees preserved the status quo with the Romans. They did not want to see any kind of disturbance in the temple.

Commentator Albert Barnes writes, "They were offended that unlearned Galileans, in no way connected with the priestly office, and unauthorized by them, should presume to set themselves up as religious teachers" (Barnes' Notes on the New Testament: Acts–Romans [reprint of the 1884–85 edition; Grand Rapids: Baker], 74).

4. What happened in verse 3?

Peter and John were arrested and spend the night in jail. The Jews did not have trials at night except the trial of Jesus, which was illegal.

5. We see in verse 4 that the arrest of Peter and John did not nullify the message of Christ. Many were saved in the temple as a result of Peter and John's preaching.

6. Who did Peter and John appear before the next day?

The Jewish Sanhedrin

These were the same people who Jesus stood trial before.

Rulers: Represented the 24 Priestly orders

Elders: Heads of the Jewish tribes

Scribes: Experts in the law

Annas: was actually not the high priest; Caiaphas was the high priest. But Annas was the real power broker on the Sanhedrin.

7. According to verse 7, what question did the Sanhedrin have for Peter and John?

On who's authority did you heal this man and preach in the temple.

8. In verses 8-12, Peter speaks to the Sanhedrin. Summarize Peter's statement in a couple of sentences.

We performed the miracle in the name of Jesus whom you crucified, but God raised Him from the dead.

There is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

9. What was the ruling of the Sanhedrin in verse 18?

Do not speak or teach about Jesus

10. What did Peter and John boldly declare to the Sanhedrin?

We must obey God rather than men. We can't help but speak of Jesus.

11. When the Peter and John returned to the believers, what did the believers pray for?

Boldness

12. What happens in verse 31?

The place shook, the believers were filled with the Spirit, and spoke Jesus boldly.