

Acts of the Apostles 4:1-22 _ Lesson 12

The First Arrest and Inquisition

1. Acts 4:1-6 – The Arrest and Council

- a. These were ‘vipers’ Matt 3:7 denying God’s word – Matt 22:23, Acts 23:8
- b. Pharisees opposed Jesus manner, Sadducees opposed his resurrection
- c. These men paid off witnesses to be silent – Matt 28:11-14
- d. *“being grieved”* - When you stand for truth, religious people are grieved
- e. 4:4 – *“which heard the word”* – which word? Of Christ, kingdom, repentance.

2. Acts 4:7-12 – Peter’s Response to Inquisition

- a. *“by what power”* – they did not ask what they were doing, their concern is political
- b. They accused Jesus before of miracles by power of the Devil - Matt 12:24-30
- c. It is possible to cast out devils and be against God’s will – Matt 7:21-23
- d. This Peter is the same one who denied the Lord thrice, now standing before them
- e. Jesus told them this would happen – Matt 10:16-20
- f. *“good deed”* - Peter’s defense quickly turns into a prosecution against the rulers.
- g. *“whom ye crucified”* – They falsely accuse, killed the Christ, and resist the Spirit
- h. *“this is the stone”* – Ps 118:22, Isa 28:16, Matt 21:41-45; Rom 9:32-33; 1 Pet 2:6-8
- i. *“neither is their salvation in any other”* – Isa 43:11, 45:21, Ps 118:21 – John 14:6
- j. Peter is not apologetic with these men, but is preaching boldly at them.

3. Acts 4:13-18 – Threats and Denial

- a. *“they saw the boldness”* – not wild gesticulation, but the very words.
- b. *“they had been with Jesus”* – a confession they cared less about the truth
- c. *“standing with them”* – The man stood with the apostles, and could not be bought
- d. *“nothing against it”* - because it was the Spirit’s words - Luke 21:12-15
- e. *“we cannot deny it”* – It wasn’t the miracles they denied, it was the power of Christ

4. Acts 4:19-22 – The Apostles Released

- a. The apostles had power granted them by Christ – Matt 19:28, Matt 21:43, Lk 12:32
- b. They appealed to God’s authority over the priestly authority
- c. Be careful not to take this out of context, as Matt 7:1 is also grossly misused
- d. Where is our final authority found? God? Yes. Further... the Bible rightly divided.
- e. We must understand what God’s will is before we make bold claims about him.
- f. *“we cannot but speak”* – Which is what we need to pray to be
- g. *“the things which we have seen and heard”* – The more sure word of prophecy