

**“THERE IS NO OTHER NAME!” – PERSECUTION BEGINS! -- ACTS 4:1-22**

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking, John Stott, Vernon McGee, Warren Wiersbe and others.

**THE CONFLICT, THE BATTLE, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU PREACH THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS – Acts 4:1-7**

*Act 4:1 Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them,*

*Act 4:2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.*

*Act 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.*

*Act 4:4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

**THE CONFLICT/BATTLE YOU WILL EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU PREACH THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS – Acts 4:1-7**

There usually will result in several responses when preaching the gospel, indicating that Jesus is the only way!:

- Anger, being greatly disturbed (most frequently) - v. 2
- Arrest by worldly authorities – v. 3
- Acceptance of the gospel message – v. 4
- Accusation – v. 7

v. 2 “being greatly disturbed” – ANGER - only other use in Acts 16:18 - “annoyed”, greatly distressed!

Three groups were greatly disturbed:

- 1 The priests – those officiating at the temple services each week (24 courses)
2. The captain of the temple guard – probably the Jewish priest in charge of the Levitical guard for the temple area.
3. The Sadducees (derived from Hebrew word for “righteousness”)
  - They rejected the traditions of the Fathers (took only the law of Moses)
  - They rejected the doctrine of a future state – no resurrection of the body and that this life is the whole of man’s existence and hope:
  - They denied the doctrine of divine influences – asserted the freedom of will – all our actions are in our own power; we are the sole cause of whatever is good!

v. 3 “for it was already evening” – Disciples arrested! - Jewish law forbids trials at night (exception in case of Jesus!)

v. 4 “the number of the men came to be (became) about five thousand.” -Those accepting– total, including the 3,000 of Acts 2:41 – the number “came to be” – became about 5,000 men

**“THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!” Acts 4:1-22**

**How should we view persecution as described here in Acts chapter 4?**

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*Act 4:5 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, Act 4:6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. Act 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked,*

*"By what power or by what name have you done this?"*

**THE COURAGE YOU WILL NEED IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL – Acts 4:8-12**

*Act 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:*

*v.7 “they asked” - (epunthanonto); they begin to inquire –They inquired; Imperfect middle tense, began to inquire.*

*v. 7 “By what power or by what name have you done this?” - ACCUSATION – Sanhedrin – highest council of the Jewish nation.*

Annas, the high priest – made so by Cyrenius, the governor of Syria, but deprived of it by Valerius Gratus, the procurator of Judea, at beginning of the reign of Tiberius. He still retained his authority – especially over Caiaphas, his son-in-law – He had five sons who became high priest in his lifetime. Caiaphas ruled from A.D. 24 to A.D. 36, succeeded by Jonathan, another son of Annas. John and Alexander – unknown

The accusation was setting up a charge of heresy because the council had already condemned Jesus as a false Messiah.

Jewish exorcists claimed to do miracles by using the names of the patriarchs or the name of Solomon – this procedure was considered proper and orthodox.

**THE COURAGE YOU WILL NEED IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL – Acts 4:8-12**

Three things involved:

*v. “filled with the Holy Spirit” – The Holy Spirit will give you what to say. He will control you as well, in what you say - Matthew 10:19-20; Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12 - “For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you out to say”*

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**Act 4:9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,**

**Act 4:10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.**

**Act 4:11 This is the 'STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY YOU BUILDERS, WHICH HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.'**

**Act 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."**

**THE CONSEQUENCES YOU CAN EXPECT – Acts 4:13-22**

**Act 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men,**

**they marveled.**

**And they realized that they had been with Jesus.**

**Act 4:14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them,**

**they could say nothing against it.**

**v. 9 “we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man” - Expect confrontation with the opposition – Acts 4:9-11 Psalm 118:22 – cf - Matthew 21:41-46**

**v. 11 “This is the 'STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY YOU BUILDERS, WHICH HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.'**

**v. 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." - Awesome, exclusive statements regarding our Savior, the King of Kings!**

**THE CONSEQUENCES YOU CAN EXPECT – Acts 4:13-22**

**CONVICTION about what you believe – Acts 4:13-22 How convicted are you about your beliefs in Christ?**

**v. 13 – “they marveled” - AMAZEMENT over what God can do**

**v. 13 “they realized that they had been with Jesus.” What a wonderful statement!! Can that be said about you, about me?**

**v. 14 – “could say nothing against it. ” – They could not argue that a miracle had occurred because the healed man was standing with them!**

**Jesus’ rejection by Israel was prophesied!**

**THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!!!**

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*Act 4:15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,*

*Act 4:16 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.*

*Act 4:17 But so that it spreads no further among the people,*

*let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."*

*Act 4:18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.*

*Act 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.*

*Act 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*

*Act 4:21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people,*

*since they all glorified God for what had been done.*

*Act 4:22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.*

v. 15 “they conferred among themselves” Notice their lack of conviction. Usually when the opposition can’t respond directly, they will form a committee or a meeting to try to come up with an answer.

v. 16 “we cannot deny it” – They could not deny the work of God!

v. 17 it spreads no further among ATTEMPTS to stop the preaching and teaching – Acts 4:17-22

v. 17 “let us severely threaten them” - ATTITUDES of hostility – Acts 4:21

vs. 19-20 Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” – Here is the application that we all need to make when the authority of man directly contradicts the authority of God and your desire to obey God – Acts 4:19-20

v. 21 “since they all glorified God” - Notice the result response from the crowd and their attitude of praise to God – Acts 4:21b

ARE WE READY TO GIVE OUR LIVES FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE??  
WOULD CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO BE PERSECUTED FOR JESUS’ SAKE?

**Questions:**

1. How relevant is this discussion in today’s study to us Christians here in the USA?
2. When we Christians preach that Jesus is the only way, what are some resulting responses that can be expected?
3. How does your fear of persecution effect the way you represent Jesus Christ and His exclusiveness?
4. Why do you think the priests were greatly disturbed? The captain of the temple?
5. Why were the Sadducees so incensed with what Jesus had to say regarding eternal life? (v. 2)
6. Verse 6 tells us that Annas was the high priest. In Mt. 27:57, it says they laid hold of Jesus and led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest. Can you explain?
7. In verse 7 we read, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" What was behind this question? Note Acts Chap 3:16
8. How does Peter’s quote of Ps. 118 tie into the behavior leveled at the Peter’s audience? (v.11)
9. How would you describe the change in Peter from what we read in today’s study (note v. 13) versus the time of his denial of Christ just a few weeks earlier?
10. Can you think of any scriptures which speak more clearly of the exclusiveness of Christ in being the only way?

**“SANCTUARY”**

*Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.*

*With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living, sanctuary, for you [2X]*