

"But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition." (v. 14)

Why were they so bold in what they said? (vv. 15-22)

"But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, saying..." (vv. 15-17)

'What shall we do with these men?

...for that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem...

...and we cannot deny it...

...but in order that it may spread no further among the people...

...let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.'

"So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus." (v. 18)

In other words, *we do not want you to continue with this!*

"But Peter and John answered them..." (vv. 19-20)

'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge (*krino*)...

See 3:22-23 (with Matthew 28:16-18)

...for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.'

See 1:8 (with Matthew 28:19-20)

In other words, only God has ultimate authority; and, you're refusing to listen to him!

"And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them..."

...because of the people...

...for all were praising God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

How do people respond to the witness of Jesus Christ?

How can even common people be bold in speaking about the witness of Jesus even in the midst of opposition?

Sunday, August 2, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ
No. 11 | Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 3

Acts 4:1-22

Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

(1:1-26) Waiting for the Spirit—Confirming the Twelve Apostles

(2:1-47) Receiving of the Spirit—Birthing the Church

What then do we see in Acts 3 and following?

The witness of Jesus Christ goes from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth

How does the witness of Jesus Christ *go*?

Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 3

4:1-22

Overview

(3:1-8:3) Witnessing in Jerusalem

(3:1-5:42) Witnessing in the temple and from house to house

(3:1-4:31) Boldness in Opposition

(4:32-5:16) Esteem in Community

(5:17-42) Rejoicing in Suffering

3:1-10 The Situation
3:11-26 The Response
4:1-22 The Opposition
4:23-31 The Resolve

The apostles encourage boldness in speaking the word of God.

^{ESV} **Acts 4:1** And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

- vv. 1-4 function as a summary of the *response* to Peter and John's address:
 - (3:1-10) Peter and John took an opportunity to *act* (healed a lame man)
 - (3:11-26) Peter and John took an opportunity to *speak* (provided the meaning)
- vv. 1-4 also lead well as the *setting* for the rest of chapter four

What happened while they were speaking? (v. 1)

"And as they were speaking to the people..."

“...the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them...”

Why were they interrupted while they were speaking? (v. 2)

“...(they were) greatly annoyed...” (See 16:18)

“...because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”

teaching and proclaiming Jesus (See 2:36)

the resurrection from the dead (See 23:6-8)

What did the religious leaders do because of their annoyance? (v. 3)

“And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.”

How did others respond to their speaking? (v. 4)

“But many of those who had heard the word believed...”

“...and the number of the men came to about five thousand.” (See 2:41, 47)

This *divided* response to the witness of Jesus Christ, then, becomes rather routine through the book of Acts; this also continues to be the case, even up to our present day.

What does it mean to believe? (How hard is it then to believe?)

Why do some refuse to believe? (What then happens to witness of Jesus?)

- vv. 5-22 then depict the first example of *opposition* to the witness of Jesus
- vv. 5-22 also model Peter and John's *boldness* in the midst of opposition

^{ESV} **Acts 4:5** On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired...

The apostles (Peter and John) model boldness to speak in the midst of opposition.

What did they say that was bold? (vv. 5-14)

“On the next day...”

...their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem...

...with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

“And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’”

In other words, *we did not authorize this!*

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit...

...said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders...’ (vv. 8-12)

- **Peter was bold about the reason and legitimacy of their examination.** (v. 9)

“...if we are being examined (*anakrino*) today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man...”

“...by what means this man has been healed...”

- **Peter was bold about the meaning and reality of the man's healing.** (v. 10)

“...let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...by him this man is standing before you well.”

“...whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead...”

- **Peter was bold about the meaning and reality of Jesus in God's plan.** (v. 11)

“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders...”

“...which has become the cornerstone.”

Psalm 118:22 (See also Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; 1 Peter 2:4, 7)

- **Peter was bold about the exclusivity and necessity of Jesus as the savior.** (v. 12)

“And there is salvation in no one else...”

“...for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

In other words, only Jesus can provide salvation; and, you're rejecting God's means of salvation!

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” (v. 13)