

PERSECUTION, PRAYER, POWER Acts 4:5–31

The Apostles: _____ His Name (Acts 4:5–14)

1. **The Court** (Acts 4:5–7)—Immediately, after seeing thousands come to know Christ as a result of the healing of the lame man, the Apostles come under attack from the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. Peter and John are arrested. The two accusations or charges were teaching the resurrection which the _____ were against and also by whose authority had they healed the lame man. The court was mainly the family of the High Priest and by this time was very corrupt. It had degenerated to _____.

“By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?” same accusation made in Matthew 12

2. **The Case** (Acts 4:8–14)—

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them (8) -- is this a fulfillment of Luke 12:11-12;21:12. Let me clearly state ... that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christthe man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead (10) Peter was not hateful but _____!
That needs to be our motivation.

For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ (11) (Psalm 118:22; Daniel 2:31ff) By quoting this Messianic passage Peter was making clear who Jesus was and who the builders were. All of this is in light of the “buzz” created at _____. While this was a great miracle, miracles are NO substitute for God’s Word!

There is salvation in no one else! (12)

The Council: _____ His Name (Acts 4:15–22)

Their problem (Acts 4:13–14)

they saw the boldness of Peter and John (13) See the difference here in their response as compared to the night Jesus was _____. What caused the difference? (2 Tim. 1:7)

They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. Wow needs to be our testimony! they could see the man who had been healed standing right there was nothing the council could say. People can argue with our logic but cannot deny our _____!

Their deliberation (Acts 4:15–18) *conferred among themselves. (15) While God does everything in the open and transparent, the devil works in the _____ behind closed doors! What dilemma are they faced with? They wanted this to die out but their threats made the Gospel spread all the more.*

The failure of the council (Acts 4:19–22) *¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? Basically, the council accomplished _____!*
The outcome is much difference than Jesus’s trial!

The Church: _____ on His Name (Acts 4:23–31)

As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God “O Sovereign Lord, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. (23-24) No _____ here. All praise is deflected to Jesus!!!

Prayer is _____ as much as Petition.

³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness (31)

BEWARE OF THE SERPENT! Acts 4:32–5:16

The Generosity of the Believers (Acts 4:32–37)

Even with arrest and threats the church remained Spirit filled and Spirit led. The early church described in Acts 2:44-47 is seen again.

A Spirit-filled church is _____ (2:44, 46)

³² *All the believers were united in heart and mind. (32) True Fellowship not man-made uniformity.*

And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. (32)

Is this Biblical redistribution of wealth? socialism?

A Spirit-filled church is _____ (Acts 2:47).

³³ *The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, (33)*

A Spirit-filled church is _____, (Acts 2:47).

and God’s great blessing was upon them all. (33)

He [Barnabas] sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles. (37) A foreshadowing of things to come with Paul and Barnabas.

The Hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11)

But there was a certain man named Ananias [gracious] who, with his wife, Sapphira [beauthiful], sold some property. ² He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife’s consent, he kept the rest. (1) They obviously didn’t live up to their names!

After seeing all the “attention” Barnabas got A & S thought they might get some “attention” also.

You would think with all this positive going on the church would have no _____. But, a Spirit-filled church will always have its enemies, within and without. Satan fights against **unity and truth**. A church that is not preaching the truth of God's Word and is not spirit-filled is already where Satan wants it. He will generally leave these type churches to themselves or even "_____ " them.

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. ⁴ The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" (3-5) This is a fundamental passage proving the Deity of the _____!

The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was:

Energized by _____ Motivated by _____ Directed against _____.

The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too. (9)

The Lord judges sin _____ at the beginning of a new period in salvation history. (Lev. 10 Josh. 7)

Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened. (11)

If everyone who claimed they "tithed" and didn't were dealt with this way our church rolls would be much smaller!

How does I Timothy 3:15 fit into this matter?

The Ministry of the Apostles (Acts 5:12–16)

In spite of arrests, threats and Satanic attack the Church was _____--the ministry continued!

The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people..... Peter's shadow might fall across some of them (12, 15) God used these miracles to _____ the apostles' ministry since the New Testament had not been written yet. (Rom. 15:18–19; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:4). Not only at the beginning of a new "era" is God's judgment more strict but also God uses miracles to validate (Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha). It does not mean God does not still perform miracles but we are to test teachers by their _____ not their miracles. (1 John 2:18–29; 4:1–6).

Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. (14) This is the first mention of "_____" in the church! Luke especially emphasizes the importance of women in the early church in Acts (12x). It is interesting that many people today think that the true church demeans women when just the opposite is true. Feminism demeans the role of women while the Bible elevates women to their proper position—equal but _____! (Galatians 3:23ff) This position was remarkable considering the culture of the day which made women little more than slaves which is the attitude also seen in modern day Islam.

TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES

Acts 5:17–42

1. The Council: _____ the Truth (Acts 5:17–28)

were filled with jealousy....(17) This was evidence during Jesus's ministry. The dynamic church was enjoying the new while the dead religion was defending the old.

"The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!" (25) As Jesus said to these men before can't you at least believe the message because of the miracles!

2. The Apostles: _____ the Truth (Acts 5:29–32)

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. Their message did not change! This is not a license to disobey government powers (Romans 13) but to always obey the _____ authority.

William Temple said that Christians are "called to the hardest of all tasks: to fight without hatred, to resist without bitterness, and in the end, if God grant it so, to triumph without vindictiveness."

3. The Teacher, Gamaliel: _____ the Truth (Acts 5:33–39)

What about Gamaliel's advice?

Is this part of the inspired Word of God?

Is this good advice for pastors/churches (I Cor. 5:1-10)?

4. The Church: _____ the Truth (Acts 5:40–42)

The high council was furious and decided to kill them (39) When people cannot win based on principle and truth they often revert to verbal and physical violence and lies.

They called in the apostles and had them flogged. (40) The apostles were beaten and sent out (Deut. 25:1–3; 2 Cor. 11:24). True believers are not _____!
What would it take to make you quit?

And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah." (42) The Christian life is an _____ gig!

Answers:

Defending, Sadducees, Nepotism, Truthful, Pentecost, Opposing, Arrest, Testimony, Shadows, Nothing, Calling, Self-Glorification, Praise, Unified, Magnified, Multiplied, Real Problems, Bless, Holy Spirit, Satan, Pride Greed, God's Church, Severely, Victorious, Authenticate, Message, Women, Different, Attacking, Affirming, Higher, Avoiding, Announcing, Gutters, Every Day