

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

NT Survey Lesson 54--Acts 4

Introduction: Peter's proclamation at the temple gate prompted immediate action by the Jerusalem authorities. It is fascinating to see the honesty and forthrightness with which Peter answers them; and how the conviction of the disciples is so evident to the rulers themselves. Their own admissions concerning Peter's miracle adds profoundly to its credibility.

Peter and John are captured and put in jail--Ac. 4:1-4

1. What particular point of Peter's preaching seemed to prompt the most opposition from the priests and Sadducees?
2. What was the response to the teaching of the apostles up to this time? To what may we attribute this amazing success?

Peter addresses the Council concerning Christ--Ac. 4:5-12

1. What question did the authorities ask of Peter and John? Does Peter imply in his answer that they had done nothing wrong?
2. In whose name did Peter say the man had been made well? What other two important points did Peter affirm about Jesus in v. 10?
3. What prophesy did the Jewish rejection fulfill?
4. What did Peter say could be found in Jesus and no one else?

The Council's response--Ac. 4:13-22

1. What reply did the Council make to Peter's remarks? What observations did they make about these disciples that in part caused them to be silent?
2. What admission did the authorities make about the healing of the lame man?
3. What did they decide to command Peter and John not to do?
4. How did Peter answer?
5. How did the people effect the decision of the Council?

Peter and John return to their companions--Ac. 4:23-31

1. What did the apostles do together after hearing the report from Peter and John?
2. What O.T. prophesy did they see being fulfilled before their eyes?
3. For what two things did the apostles pray?
4. How did God miraculously indicate that He had heard their prayer? How did this affect the apostles?

Another brief description of the church in Jerusalem--Ac. 4:32-37

1. How does Luke describe the attitude of the Jerusalem church? What did they do with their material possessions?
2. What were the apostles doing? Was this the answer to their prayers?
3. How did God show abundant grace to these believers? Verses 34-35 seems to be Luke's explanation of this statement.
4. What person does Luke tell us about? How did he get his name? What did he do for his fellow-believers?