

**Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts**  
**"No Other Name"**  
**Acts 4:1-12**  
**Study-8**

**Acts 1:8** The infant Church has been birthed of the Holy Spirit, given the power to witness, **Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, the Lord's Supper, and Prayer.**

**John 15:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:12**

**Acts 4** reveals the beginning of the persecution, which brought the power of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

**Thought Of The Passage:** "Persecution Became A Blessing To The NT Church, Because It Brought Attention, And An Opportunity For Jesus."

**1. Verses 1-7 The Arrest**

**2. Verses 8-12 The Defense**

**1. Verses 1-7 The Arrest:**

**Acts 4:1 As they were speaking to the people, - Context -** this is referring to Peter and John in **Acts 3**, where God used them in the healing of a lame man at the gate of the temple. **(Over 40 years old)**

**the priests** - the temple ministers. Twenty-four divisions that rotated.

**and the captain of the temple guard,** - The commander of the Levitical police force.

**and the Sadducees, came upon them, - Sadducees** - Their name meant "*righteous ones.*" A religious group formed during the period between the Testaments when the Maccabees ruled Judah. This was a wealthy religious party that oversaw the temple.

**Opposition In The Gospels Came From The Pharisees:** "*Separate ones, or to separate.*"

**Opposition In Acts Came From The Sadducees:** The liberals of their day. The persecution that the new church experienced came in two waves, starting in **Acts 4-5**. In both cases, it was initiated by the **Sadducees**.

**Acts 4:2 being greatly disturbed** - "*to worry or to be grieved much, annoyed even exasperated.*" **2-Reasons They Were Disturbed:**

**Reason 1# because they were teaching the people** - These liberals (Sadducees) believed they had the monopoly on the Scriptures. **Acts 4:13**

**Reason 2# and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.**  
They were not looking for a Messiah and did not believe in the resurrection.

**Resurrection was the central theme of the NT Church: John 11:25-26**

**Acts 4:3 And they laid hands on them,** - The Greek implies "*they just abruptly grabbed the Apostles by force.*"

**Acts 4:4 many of those who had heard the message believed;** - Heard the Word (**Acts 3:12-26**) and it convicted their hearts, and they believed in Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 4:12**

**and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.**  
**Acts 2:41**

**Acts 4:5 and elders clan leaders.** The various elite heads of families.

**and scribes** - often called lawyers, because they copied the Scriptures.

**were gathered together in Jerusalem;** - The counsel was made up of 71 members.

**Acts 4:6 Annas - John 18:19 The high priest** - The High Priest was a position for life.

**and Caiaphas** - name meaning "*rock*" or "*depression.*" He was the son-in-law of Annas.

**John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent.**  
Relatives of **Annas**.

**Acts 4:7 When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire,** - They are supposed to be guardians of the faith. **John 16:1-3**

**"By what power,** - What is the source of this power? (We saw this in the Gospels)

**or in what name,** - or they are implying "*by what magical formula*"  
**in what name, The Name stands for all that a person is.**

**have you** (*Literally "people like you"*) **done this?"** - Referring to the lame man. **Acts 4:22**

## **2. Verses 8-12 The Defense:**

**Acts 4:8 Observe The Message Was Empowered By The Holy Spirit: Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit,** - Again in **Acts 4:31 (The message is only 92 words in Greek).**

**"Rulers and elders of the people,** - Peter uses every opportunity to share Jesus. **Matthew 10:19**

**Acts 4:9**

**The Miracle Was A Good Deed, Not A Crime: if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man,** (It was a good deed, not a crime!)

**Luke 6:6-11** Jesus healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.

**as to how this man has been made well,** - *"I am on trial today for a good deed, not a bad deed!"*

**Acts 4:10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel,** - this witness was being addressed to the Jewish religious leaders, but it applied to all of Israel.

**Observe The Message Was Centered In Jesus: that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene,** (Power of God in Jesus)

**Peter's Four Point Sermon:**

**Point #1 You Are Guilty In Crucifying Jesus: whom you crucified,**  
This is the third time that Peter has told the Jews that they have killed Jesus - **Acts 2:23-24; 3:15**

**Point #2 Jesus Rose From The Dead: whom God raised from the dead—**Peter declared it was God that raised Jesus; death, burial, and resurrection. **Romans 1:3-4**

**by this name this man stands here before you in good health.** It is by the authority of Jesus

**Point #3 The Purpose Of God Will Prevail (His Rejection): Acts 4:11**

**Observation - The Message Was Centered In Scriptures:** Peter quotes from **Psalm 118:22-23**. This was a prophecy that foretold the rejection of the Messiah.

Jesus Himself quoted this passage - **Matthew 21:42** The context is that Jesus is speaking to **Matthew 21:23 chief priests and the elders of the people**

**Psalm 118:22-23** is called "A Psalm of Ascent."

**The stone** - God referred to a rock or a stone - **Deut. 32:4,18, 30-31; Ps. 18:2, 31, 46**

Jesus was both the foundation stone and the corner stone – **1 Cor 3:11; Eph 2:20-22; 1 Peter 2:4-5**

Jesus was a stumbling stone - **Isa. 8:14-15; Rom. 9:32-33; 1 Cor. 1:23**

The Second Coming, Jesus will be a smiting stone of destruction – **Dan 2:34**

**WHICH WAS REJECTED** Literally *"to reject after investigation."* This was no oversight or accident; it was a deliberate and calculated decision of rejection.

**by you,** (Peter added these words as he preached) **THE BUILDERS,** the guilt that follows the wrong choice of the religious leaders.

**but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone.** The stone that sets the alignment and is the basis for the building structure. Often held together two walls.

**Acts 4:12**

**Point #4 Jesus Is The One And Only Way To Salvation: "And there is salvation in no one else;** exclusive claims in Scripture. **John 14:6; Philippians 2:9-11**

**The Name of the Savior** - He was given the name "**Jesus.**" *"He will save His people from their sins."* **Matthew 1:21**

**The Name of His Deity** - "**Immanuel,**" *"God with us."* **Matthew 1:23**

**The Uniqueness of the Name** - His Life, His death, His burial, His Resurrection, His Exaltation and Authority. (Savior and God)

**Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore** – *"Change of mind."*

**and return (turn to God),** *"Change in outward conduct."* This evidence that we have repented is that we follow the Lord.

**No forgiveness apart from repentance**

### **Application:**

**Point #1** We Are Guilty in Crucifying Jesus: (We Are Guilty Sinners)

**Point #2** Jesus Rose From The Dead: (Jesus Is Truly God)

**Point #3** The Purpose Of God Will Prevail: (We Can Win A Battle But Not The War).

**Point #4** Jesus Is The One And Only Way To Salvation: (We Come To God On His Terms, Which Is Faith In Jesus).