**March 17, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“UNDENIABLE”**

**Acts 4:1-16**

***Acts 4:1 "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,"***

***Acts 4:2 "Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead."***

***Acts 4:3 "And they laid hands on them, and put [them] in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide."***

***Acts 4:4 "Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."***

Jesus had told his disciples, “If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:20). That persecution was about to begin. We see here, a quick response to the Sermon Peter had preached. This preaching of Peter and John angered these men from the temple. The priests, and the captain which guarded the temple, and the Sadducee (aristocrats) who did not believe in the resurrection came, because Peter and John had been preaching that Jesus rose again. This teaching of Peter and John is in direct opposition with what the Sadducee believe. While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the Jewish religious leaders got ticked off because they were proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and threw them in jail until the next day since it was already evening (the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin, didn’t meet at night). This believing the word which Peter and John had preached is an extension of chapter 3. We read earlier how about 3,000 believed, now the group of believers has grown to 5,000 men. At this time there were many women who believed, so the number of believers is expanding greatly. Beginning in the life of one lame man, God brought five thousand men to Christ in spite of the opposition of powerful unbelievers. There’s no stopping the kingdom of God manifested through the power of the Holy Spirit when Jesus is being glorified.

***Acts 4:5 "And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,"***

***Acts 4:6 "And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem."***

***Acts 4:7 "And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?"***

***Acts 4:8 "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,"***

The next day the high priest and all of the Jewish leadership basically every leader that had been aligned against Jesus at his mock trial brought Peter and John to stand before them for questioning. This shows that the higher-ups in the temple were all gathered together to see if they couldn't trap Peter and John. This is an interrogation of Peter and John. The question, itself, lets you know that these in power here did not have respect for the name of Jesus Christ. Instead of being pleased that a man crippled from birth can now walk, they were ready to criticize what they had done. By what power or in what name have you done this? In other words, “Who authorized you to say and do these things?” (Unless they truly wanted to hear the answer, they shouldn’t have asked the question.) Notice that the Peter who boldly answered them was the same Peter who, when previously asked about Jesus, said, “I don’t know him” (Luke 22:57). What had changed him? He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Giving himself over to the influence of the Spirit’s power enabled him (and will enable us) to confidently bear witness to Christ.

***Acts 4:9 "If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;"***

***Acts 4:10 "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, [even] by him doth this man stand here before you whole."***

***Acts 4:11 "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."***

If they wanted to know how a lame man had been healed, Peter made it clear: By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead by him this man is standing here before you healthy. It is so important to notice the difference in Peter, here, and the Peter who had been afraid and denied Jesus three times. This Peter is filled with the power of the Holy Ghost. He is looking These accusers in the face and telling them that they killed Jesus. He is, also, telling these powerful (worldly) men who do not believe in the dead rising again, that Jesus whom they killed, rose again. In fact, he is telling them that this power to do miracles, that no one in their group was able to do, came just by mentioning the name of this Jesus they had crucified. Peter has no fear of what these worldly men can do to him. He also reminds them that they are trying to punish him for a good deed, not a bad. Peter gets even bolder and tells them that Jesus was the cornerstone upon which all the church fits together with, and these supposedly godly men rejected the most important part of the church. Jesus is the fulfillment of Psalm 118:22; he is the stone that the Jewish leaders had rejected, which became the cornerstone, the stone upon which the rest of the building depends. The only way to avoid the implications of what they had done was to repent and turn to the risen Lord Jesus, the one whom they had killed. Jesus, the cornerstone, brought physical Israel and spiritual Israel into the family of God.

***Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."***

Peter concluded by telling the leaders that salvation is found in no one else. There is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved. Names in the Bible are not mere titles; they reflect the person. The name Jesus is the Greek version of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means, “The Lord saves.” Jesus’s name, then, speaks to who he is, what he has done, and what he can do. Salvation from sin, death, and hell is found in him alone. The Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood on Calvary to save us from sin and death. Christianity is really the only religion which promises eternal life after death, and hell after death, if we reject so great salvation. The religions of the world (other than Christianity) center around man's life on the earth. The difference in most religions and Christianity is that Christians worship the Creator of all the earth. Most other religions worship the created things of the earth and heavens. Jesus is the Judge of all the world, and we will stand or fall by whether we are His or not. He is our great Shepherd and on judgment day, if we are His sheep, we will live eternally in heaven with Him. If we are not His sheep, we will go the way of the goats to eternal damnation.

***Matthew 25:32-34***

***32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:***

***33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.***

***34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:***

***Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."***

The Jewish leaders observed Peter and John’s boldness, as well as the fact that they were uneducated and untrained men. Now that doesn’t mean they had received no training whatsoever. It means they had received no formal rabbinical training, the ancient equivalent of seminary. These men had not been taught as the Levitical tribe was. The leaders recognized that these men had been with Jesus. That’s where they got their training. Over the course of three years, the Son of God had taught these former fishermen everything they knew. You can receive extensive, formal, theological education and have degrees after your name. But if you’ve never “been with Jesus” in a spiritual relationship and enrolled in his school of discipleship, you’ll make no lasting spiritual effect on others. This boldness, when speaking out for the good news of the gospel, is very important: not only to the apostles then, but also to the preachers today. All who receive this baptism whether preachers or laymen receive power to minister more boldly. One of the beauties of the effective preacher is in his or her boldness to speak in common everyday English, so that all can understand what you are saying. The Lord does not choose ordinarily the highly educated to carry the simple message of the gospel. People with a great deal of education, sometimes, want everything proven in black and white. The Bible and its teachings are accepted by faith. Faith and proven facts are the opposite. The Lord generally chooses those with a humble heart who He can teach His ways. These apostles, Jesus had taught one on one. It was easier for them to believe because they did not have pre-conceived ideas.

***Acts 4:14 "And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it."***

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

***Acts 4:16 "Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them [is] manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny [it]."***

We can quickly see that the evidence was stacked in favor of Peter and John. The man who had been lame from birth was standing in front of them. These priests, Sadducees, captains and high-ranking people from the temple could not deny the man could now walk. They would have to let them go. This had these high officials of the temple confused as to what to do. They had no idea how they would be able to discredit the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and still not deny this miracle. Either way, the council would look bad. These religious men should be repenting for refusing to accept Jesus as Messiah. They have been shown, again, by this tremendous miracle in His name, who He is and was. They really should be asking help of Peter and John, instead they are trying to figure out a way to save face with their temple people. They couldn’t deny the reality of the healed man standing with them, so they put Peter and John outside and conferred among themselves. They didn’t know what to do. On the one hand, a clear miraculous sign had been publicly performed through them and couldn’t be denied. On the other hand, if they didn’t do something to stop them, the message they were preaching would spread among the people. The hearts of the Jewish leaders were so hard that they decided to threaten them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus (4:17-18). They didn’t care about truth; they cared only about preserving their own religious authority.”

**QUESTIONS**

1. As Peter and John spoke to the people, who came up?
2. What were these men grieved about?
3. What did they do to Peter and John?
4. In verse 4, we find that the number of the believing men had grown to what number?

5. Who gathered at Jerusalem as a council against Peter and John in verse 5 and 6?
6. What question did they ask Peter and John?
7. What caused Peter to speak so boldly?
8. How did Peter answer their question?
9. Who did Peter say crucified Jesus?
10. What is the difference in Peter now, and the Peter who denied Jesus?

11. What is Jesus called in verse 11?

12. Who is salvation in?

13. Which is the only religion that promises eternal life just by believing?

14. Who is the great Shepherd?

15. When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, they perceived that they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_men.

16. These men knew that Peter and John had been with whom?

17. What is one of the most important assets a preacher needs?

18. Who does the Lord choose to work for Him?

19. What and proven facts are opposites?

20. Why could they not say anything against Peter and John healing the man?
21. In verse 15, where did they command Peter and John to go?

22. When the council met, what had them confused?