



Acts 4:1-26; THE FIRST PERSECUTION.

Acts of Apostles 4:1;
In our study of Acts 3,
we saw three important events!

**1. The healing of the lame man
as a specific example of God confirming
the word through the use of miracles.**

**2. Peter declared to the people
the glorification of the Christ.**

**3. Peter convinced the people of
their sins instructed them to be converted.**

Acts of Apostles 4:1- 4:31;

PERSECUTION.

SALVATION IN NO OTHER NAME.

PREACHED WITH BOLDNESS.

Acts of Apostles 4:1;

4:1; We see the beginning of Satan's efforts to destroy the people of God.

Acts 5:3; 10:38; 26:18;

miracles.

**The devil never leaves
God's people alone for very long.**

2 Tim 3:12; 1 Pet 4:12;

**In Acts 2:38; people interrupted
out of a sbmissive heart.**

In Acts 3 and 4 People interuppted

Acts of Apostles 4:1;

**It is now a few days since
the beginning of the Kingdom-Church.**

**It is now well on its way to becoming
the world-wide universal Divine Institution
that had always been in God's eternal plan.**

**As expected, the same Jewish leaders
that had caused the murder of Jesus
are now attempting to stamp out
the FAST GROWING church.**



Acts of Apostles 4:1;

The most effective method of destroying any organization has always been to **destroy its leadership. This is what these enemies of God are trying to do.**

At times it may seem that the enemies of Christians are winning battles. But the outcome of the long war against God and His people is assured. **We win at the end!**

As in the parable of the mustard seed and Daniel's prophecy of the stone that becomes a mountain that fills the whole earth, the Kingdom will not stop growing until it has filled the whole world.

**Private Jail Beneath the House of Caiaphas
Excavated in Jerusalem. His burial site
and stone sarcophagus have also been found.**



Acts of Apostles 4:1-2;

4:1; “The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.

2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus, the resurrection of the dead.”

This seems to be the first instance of opposition which the brethren faced since the death of Jesus Christ.

Even today, preaching Jesus and the resurrection will not always provoke a favourable response.

The Priests and the Temple Guards.



Acts 4:1-3; Who were these men?



Priests.

Sadducees.

**Temple
Guard.¹¹**

Acts of Apostles 4:1-3;

The priests, the captains of the temple and the Sadducees took Peter and John into custody because of what they were teaching concerning the resurrection.

The temple guards were under the control of the priests who were under the control of the High Priest who at this time was a Sadducee.

The Sadducees did not believe in a bodily resurrection.

(Matt 22:23-33; Mark 12:18; Luke 20:27;)

**They were the religious leaders
favoured by the Romans
but were the natural enemies of Christianity.**

They always had a fear that anything perceived as an insurrection would bring trouble on their nation.

Acts of Apostles 4:1-3;

The fact of Jesus' resurrection
would have done great damage to
the power and influence of the Sadducees.

It was the **preaching of Jesus' resurrection**
that upset them the most
and forced them to take action to stop
the preaching of this message if they could.

**Since the Apostles were so popular with the masses
at this time they had to move carefully against them.**

Acts of Apostles 4:1-3;

In Acts 5:17; We read “The high priest and his friends, who were Sadducees, reacted with violent jealousy. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the jail.”

Religious people... Christians included, are often the instigators of persecution!

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6;

3 “They arrested them and since it was already evening, jailed them overnight.

4 But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so that the number of believers now reached a new high of about 5,000 men!”

5 “The next day it happened that the Council of all the Jewish leaders was in session in Jerusalem.”

6 “as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.”

Peter and John Go to Jail!



Acts of Apostles 4:3-6;

The temple guards arrested Peter and John and put them in jail because it was too late in the day to have a hearing about their alleged crime.

The next day they brought them before the religious court.

These were some of the same leaders who had condemned Jesus and asked to have Him killed.

Acts of Apostles 4:4;

4 “But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so that the number of believers now reached **a new high of about 5,000 men!**”

Despite the persecution
CHRIST was still being preached and
many more responded to the gospel.

People were still hearing the Apostles
message and being converted.

From an initial number of about 3,000, **Acts 3:4;**
the number has grown **Acts 4:4;** to about 5,000,
In **Act 6:7;** Multiplied **Acts 9:31;** Multiplied

**Because of the Resurrection
The Kingdom Kept Growing.**



Acts of Apostles 4:4;

The preaching of the **death, burial and resurrection**
was the central facts of the gospel.

What those facts meant for eternal salvation
for all who believed
was **the powerful message**
that caused the **growth of the Kingdom.**

Jail time for the faith should
not be considered unusual.
The Jewish authorities had the power
to imprison whom they wished,
at least for a time.

Acts 4:5; “It happened that the next day the rulers, elders and scribes held a meeting in Jerusalem.”

No Roman authorities are described in this chapter prior to the arrest.

These would be **the Sanhedrin** who came together. **72 members.**
Sun and Hedra = To sit together.

Exodus 18 and 21:1;

24 Rulers (Chief Priests, 24 Course heads)

24 Elders (elderly men picked by the people)

24 Lawyers (scribes)

In Jesus time jurisdiction was limited.

No capital punishment except in Gentiles entering the forbidden area of the Temple?. Acts 21:29;

Acts 4:5; “It happened that the next day the rulers, elders and scribes held a meeting in Jerusalem.”

Who are Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander?

Upon the death of **Tiberius Nero**, his wife **Julia's son, succeeded.**

He was now the third emperor; and he sent **Valerius Gratus** to be procurator of Judea, and to succeed **Annius Rufus.**

Gratus deprived **Annus** of the high priesthood, and appointed **Ismael**, the son of Phabi, to be high priest.

Acts of Apostles 4:4-6;

Gratus after a short time also deprived **Ismael**, and
ordained Eleazar, the son of Ananus,
who had been high priest before, to be high priest:

Eleazar held office, for a year, **Gratus** then
deprived him of it, and gave the high
priesthood to **Simon**, the son of Camithus;

Acts 4:5; “with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, Jonathan, Alexander and all the members of the high-priestly families. .”

Which office, when he had held for a year, **Gratus** deprived him of it, and gave the high priesthood to **Simon**, the son of **Camithus**; and, when he had possessed that dignity **no longer than a year,**

Joseph Caiaphas was made his successor.

When **Gratus** had done those things, he went back to Rome, after he had tarried in Judea eleven years, when **Pontius Pilate** came as his successor.
(Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 18:33-35)

**Gratus had set in place then deposed
4 high priests in a very short time.**

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6;

Both **Annas** and **Caiaphas** were mentioned in the trial of Jesus. (Luke 3:2; John 18:12-14, 24).

The family burial site and bone box (ossuary) of **Caiaphas** have been found and identified near Jerusalem.

The story and pictures may be accessed on Bill Humble's web site at

<http://www.knls.org/English/trascripts/humble01.htm>

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6; CAIAPHAS!

Based on the inscription, this ossuary may have contained the bones of Caiaphas.



“The report goes, that this oldest Ananus proved a most fortunate man; “for he had five sons who had all performed the office of a high priest to God,”

“and who had himself enjoyed that dignity a long time formerly, which had never happened to any other of our high priests;”

(Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 20:198)

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6;

WHO WAS JOHN? Was this Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai. (47 BC-73 AD?)

A contemporary of Jesus of Nazareth, Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai was the youngest and most distinguished disciple of Rabbi Hillel and a primary contributor to the core text of the Mishnah.

According to tradition, he was a pacifist in Jerusalem in 68 CE when the city was under siege by Vespasian.

Jerusalem was controlled by the Zealots, who would rather die than surrender to Rome.

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6;

WHO WAS JOHN? Was this Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai. (47 BC-73 AD?)

Ben Zakkai urged surrender, but the Zealots would not hear of it, so Ben Zakkai faked his own death and had his disciples smuggle him out of Jerusalem in a coffin.

They carried the coffin to Vespasian's tent, where Ben Zakkaie merged. He told Vespasian that he had had a vision that Vespasian would soon be emperor, and he asked Vespasian to set aside a place in Yavneh where he could move his yeshiva and study Torah in peace.

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6;

WHO WAS JOHN? Was this Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai. (47 BC-73 AD?)

Vespasian promised that if the prophecy came true, he would grant the request.

Vespasian became Emperor and kept his word, allowing the school to be established (and the Sanhedrin to be re-established) after the war was over. Yavneh became the centre of Jewish learning for centuries.

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6; WHO WAS ALEXANDER?

Was this **Alexander** “**the Alabarch**,” the Roman magistrate responsible for tax assessment?

This Alexander was not only a prominent Roman citizen, he was also a prominent Jew.

He was the **brother of Philo and father of Alexander Tiberius** (who married Berenice, the daughter of Agrippa the elder, and later became governor of Judea).

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6; WHO WAS ALEXANDER?

Josephus says that **Agrippa desperately sought a loan** in the amount of 200,000 drachmas from **Alexander the Alabarchin** Alexandria.
(this would have been circa 35 AD).
(Antiquities of the Jews, 18: 159)•

This **Alexander** would have been well liked by the temple priesthood because he was responsible for the silver and gold poured onto the Temple Gates, including “the Beautiful Gate.”

Acts of Apostles 4:3-6; WHO WAS ALEXANDER?

Now the sizes of the other gates were equal one to another; but that over the Corinthian gate, which opened on the east opposite the gate of the holy house itself, was much larger; for its height was fifty cubits;

its doors were forty cubits; and it was adorned after a most costly manner, as having much richer and thicker plates of silver and gold upon them than the other.

**These nine gates had that silver and gold poured upon them by Alexander, the father of Tiberius.
(Josephus, Wars of the Jews 5:204-205)**



Acts 4:7; “They made the prisoners stand in the middle and began to interrogate them, “By what power, and by whose name have you men done this?”

The Jewish leaders present in this special court were all priests and their questions related to the Laws of Moses and possible violations of these laws.

Their question was one about authority. They wanted to know where or from whom the Apostles had gotten their authority to preach something they perceived to be contrary to the Laws of Moses and the teachings of the Old Testament prophets.

**Act 4:7-10; "By what power or in what name
have you done this?"**



**The religious leaders questioned Peter and John
as to by what POWER or NAME
had they healed the lame man?**

Acts 4:7-10; By What Power, In What Name?

**The reference is from Psalm 118:19 -23;
In the Psalm we see the phrase “gate of YHWH.”**

**This connects to the Messiah’s words in
John 10:9; (Peshitta) “I am the gate and if anyone
should enter by me, he will live. And he will enter
and he will go out and find pasture.”**

**JESUS is the “gate of YHWH.” There is no other
Name / Power/ Authority under the heaven but
Jesus given to and for mankind to “have life”**

**“This is ‘the stone which was rejected by you builders,
which has become the chief cornerstone.’¹² “And there is no
deliverance in anyone else, for there is no other Name under
the heaven given among men by which we need to be saved.”**



Jesus turns water to wine.

Acts 4:7-10; By What Power, In What Name?

Some Miracles of Jesus.

No miracle can be explained

By any kind of law.

Those told in the Bible

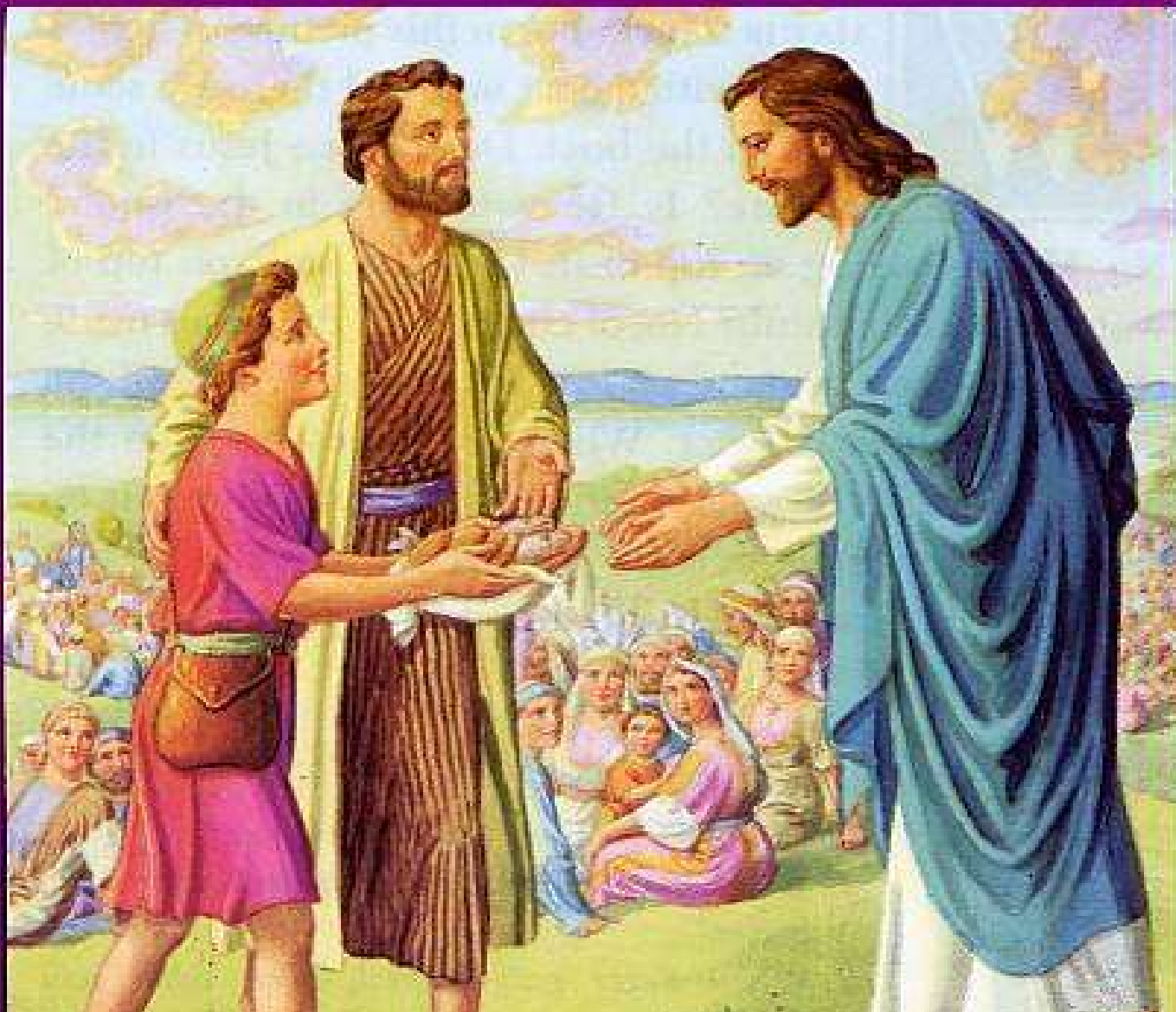
Were told by those who saw.

They knew they were not ordinary

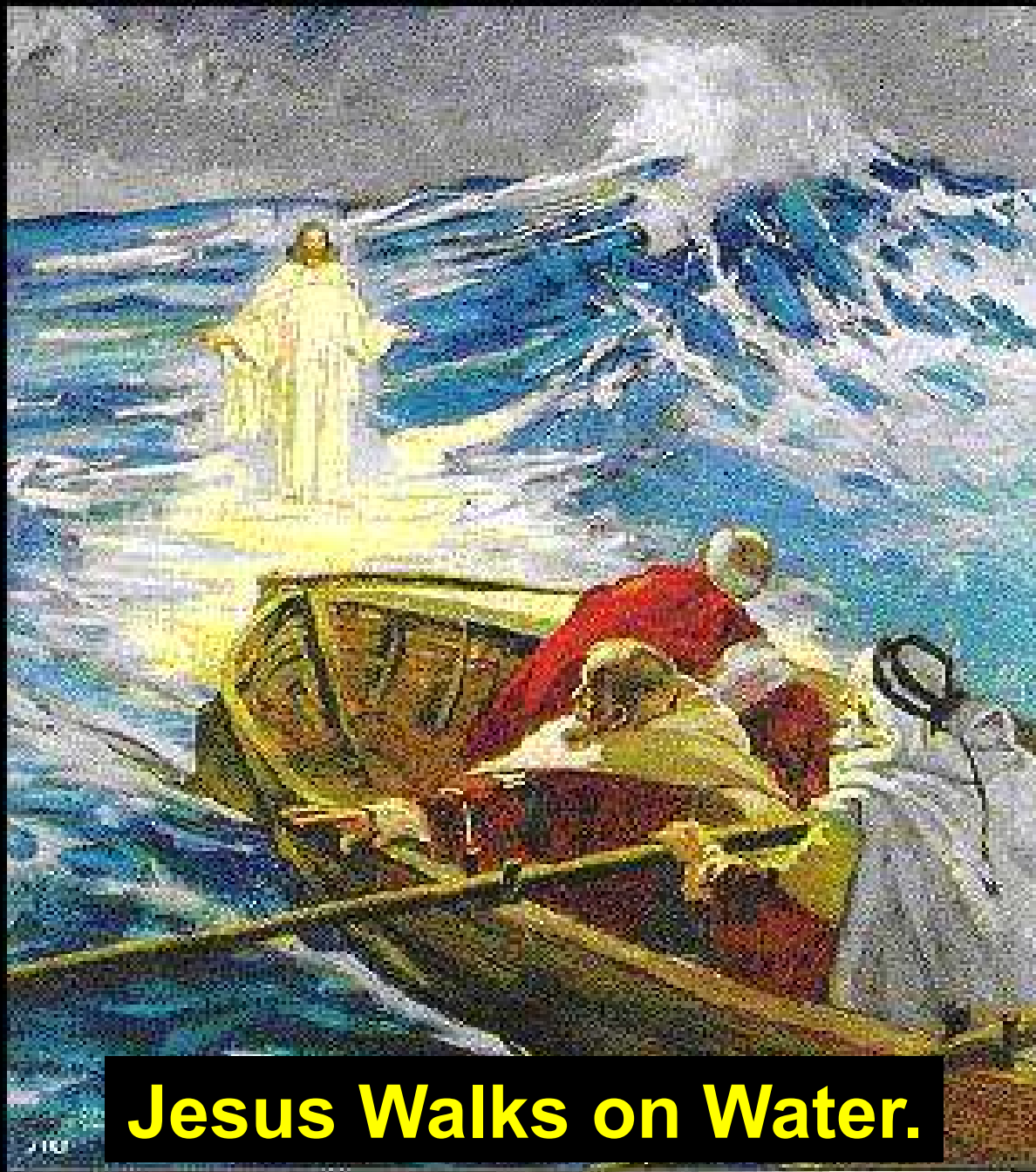
Things seen every day.

And no one held a sword to them

And told them what to say.



**Jesus Feeds Five Thousand Plus
with Five Loaves and Two Fish.**



Jesus Walks on Water.

Acts 4:7-10; By What Power, In What Name?

Some Miracles of Jesus.

They were good and honest people,

Not writing to deceive.

But simply telling us the facts

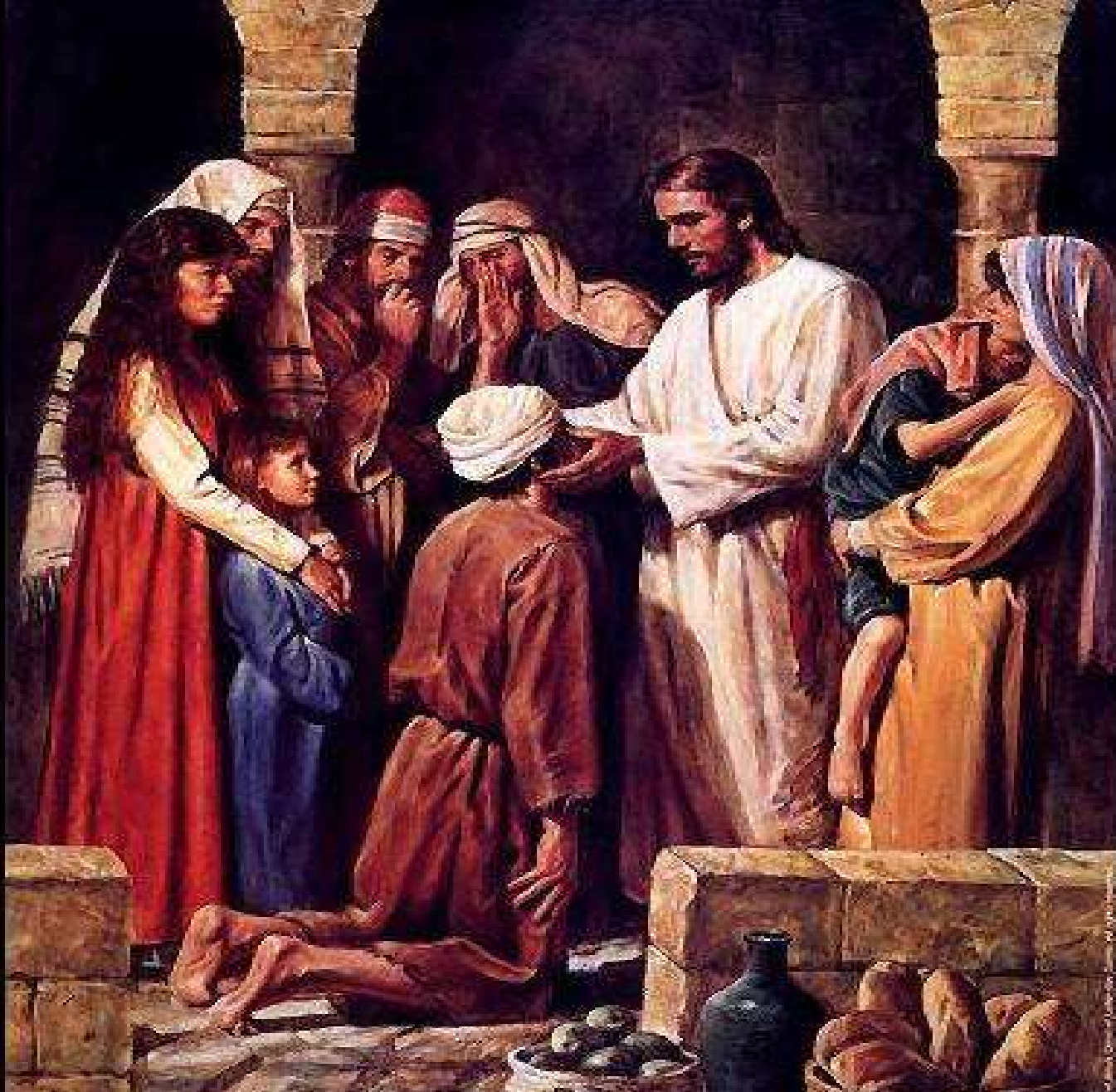
So we could then believe.

Their lives they laid upon the line,

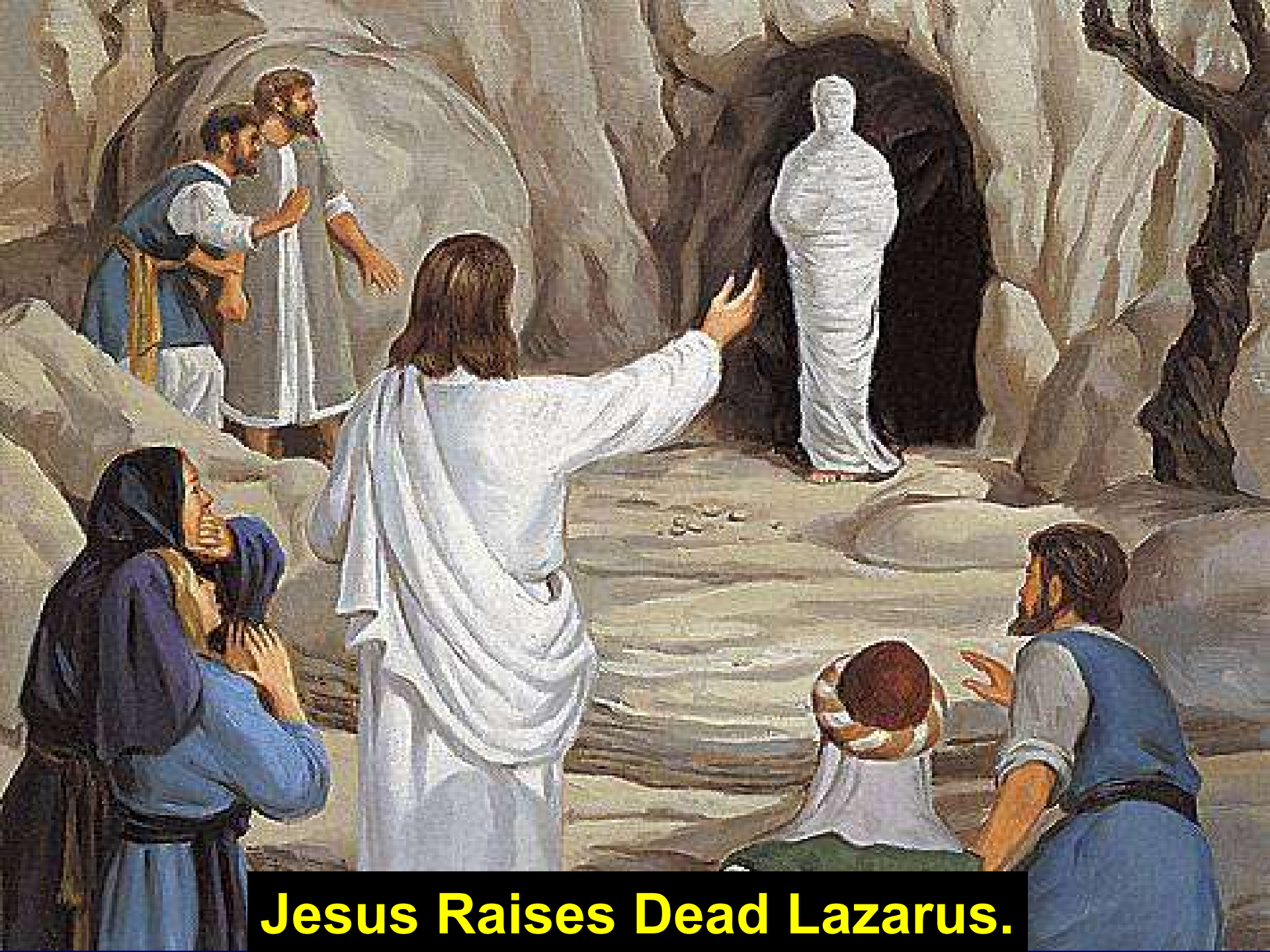
And not one would recant.

No matter how fiercely

Their enemies would rant.



Jesus Heals and Casts out Demons.



Jesus Raises Dead Lazarus.

Acts 4:7-10; By What Power, In What Name?

Some Miracles of Jesus.

More proof lay in the circumstance

Of how each work was done.

No trick or sleight of hand

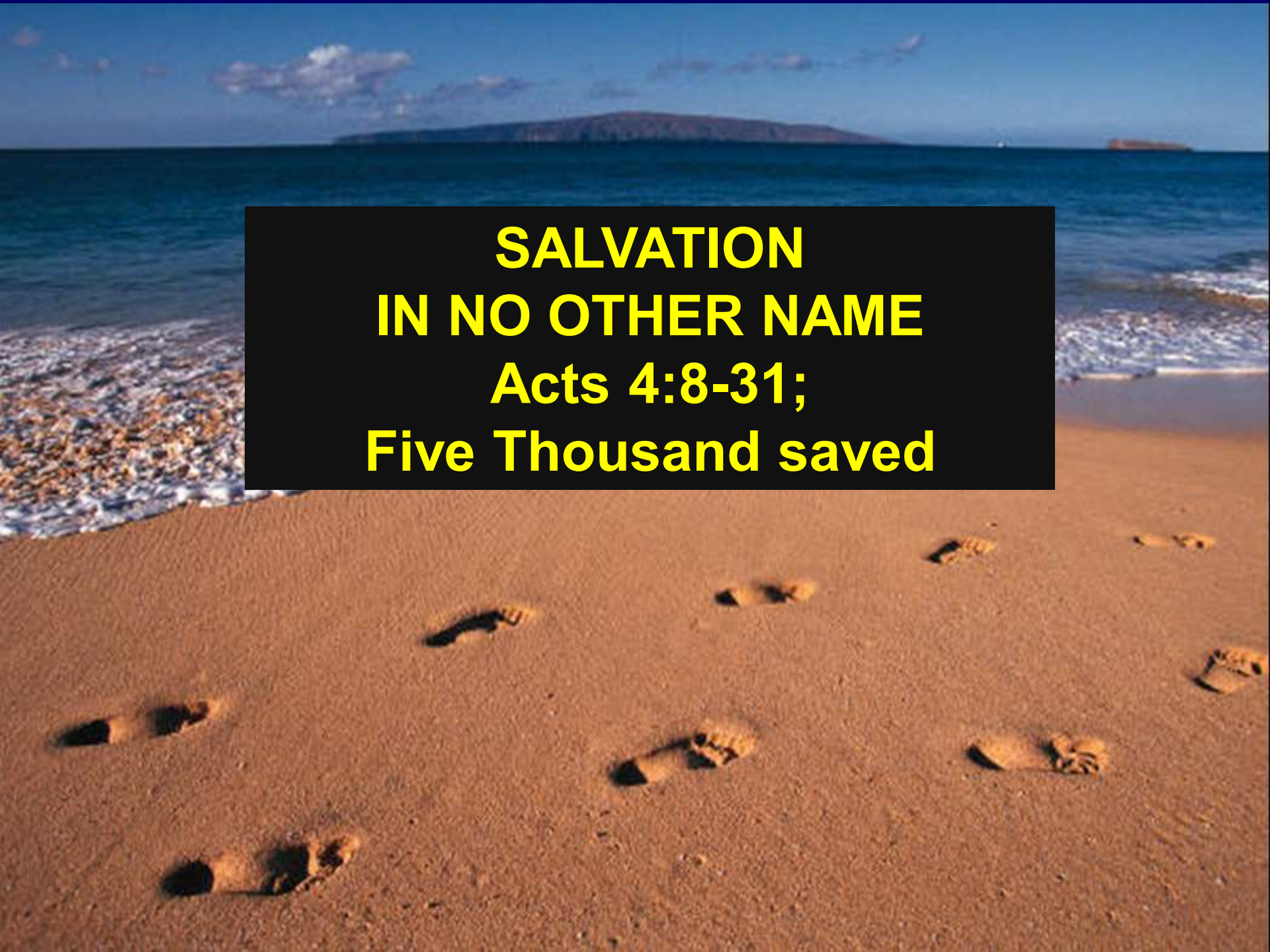
Could explain a single one.

Believe the God who does not lie;

Whose work is done through men.

He worked His plan in history

And destroyed the power of sin.

A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore. In the foreground, several footprints are visible in the sand. A black rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing yellow text. In the background, a large island is visible on the horizon under a blue sky with some clouds.

**SALVATION
IN NO OTHER NAME
Acts 4:8-31;
Five Thousand saved**



Jesus is Raised from Death.

MINI SERMONS 4:8-12;

8. "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Leaders and elders of our nation, 9. are we being questioned because we've done a good deed for a crippled man?

Do you want to know how he was healed?

10. Let me clearly state to you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed in the name and power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, the man you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead.

11. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.'

**12 There is salvation in no one else!
There is no other name in all of heaven
for people to call on, to save them."**

Acts of Apostles 5:29-32;

29. “But Peter and the apostles replied, **We must obey God rather than human authority.**

30. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by crucifying him.

31. Then God put him in the place of honour at his right hand as Prince and Saviour. He did this to give the people of Israel an opportunity to turn from their sins and turn to God so their sins would be forgiven.

32. We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him.”

Acts 4:9; “ If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple and asking us how he was healed,”

Peter and John stood ready to give a defence to the rulers. (1 Peter 3:15;) “you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.”

Peter PREACHED about Jesus Christ.

Declared that salvation is found in no other name but the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts of Apostles 4:9-10;

Peter made it clear they had done nothing wrong

**“If we are being called to account today
for an act of kindness shown to a sick man
and are asked how he was healed.”**

**I Pet 2:12; “Live such good lives among
the pagans that, though they accuse you of
doing wrong, **they may see your good deeds
and glorify God** on the day He visits us.”**

**I Pet. 2:15; “For such is the will of God
**that by doing right you may silence
the IGNORANCE of foolish men.**”**

Acts of Apostles 4:10-11;

I Pet 4:5; “By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer.”

10 “then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.”

11 “He is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.”

Eph 2:20; “We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.”

Capstone.



Acts of Apostles 4:10-11;

They had asked Peter and John about the source of the authority for their preaching.

Peter emphasized the miracle that served to prove the divine origin of the teaching.

If they admitted that a miracle had been performed, they would have to acknowledge that the Person whose power had enabled them to perform the miracle had the authority to command them to teach what they had been teaching.



Acts of Apostles 4:11;

This is **the stone** which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the **head of the corner.**

Peter is quoting Ps 118:22; “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.”

Peter is telling them By your rejection and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, you have fulfilled one of your own prophecies,



Acts of Apostles 4:11;

The Old Testament refers to the **cornerstone**
as the **foundation** of the earth. (Job 38:6;)
the **foundation**. (Isa 28:16;)
the **stone** for the corner. (Jer 51:26;)
the **head cornerstone**. (Psa 118:22;)
or the **headstone**. (Zech 4:7;)

The image of a **cornerstone** is used as both the **chief stone**
and **the stone at the corner of a foundation**.

In the first century A.D., the expression
chief cornerstone was also used to refer to **the stone**
placed on the summit of the Jerusalem temple.

Acts of Apostles 4:10-11;

These very rulers of the Jews should have been the ones who finished the spiritual temple for which God had been providing the blueprints and materials through the centuries.

When the final stone to cap the structure had come, **instead of accepting Him and fitting Him into the spiritual temple, they had rejected Him.**

Jesus, the Rejected Capstone.

Pyramid Capstone.



Salvation in no other name! 4:12;



Jesus (Yeshua) in Ancient Hebrew.

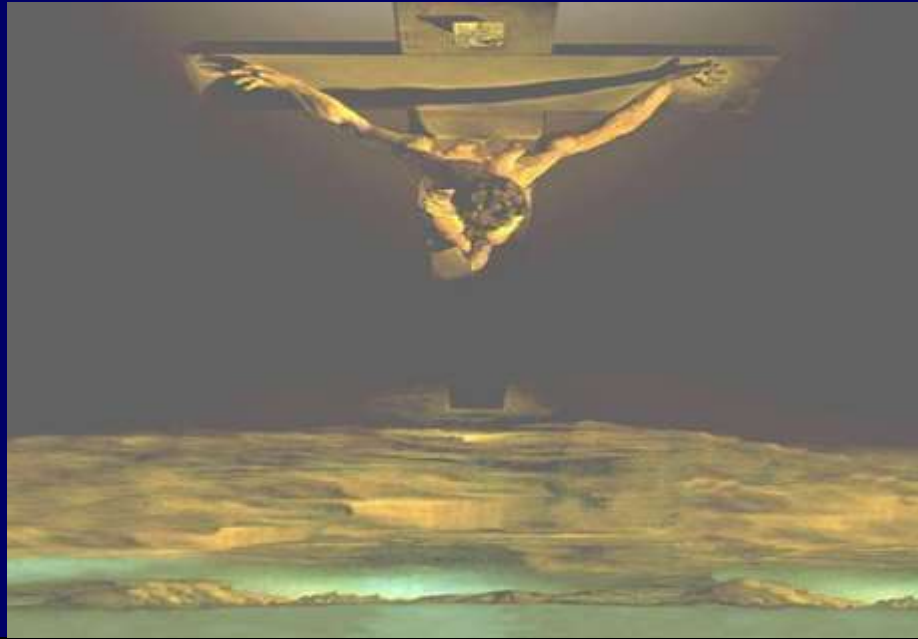
Salvation in no other name! 4:12;

What does this verse mean about the place of non Christian religions?

**The Name stands for the person,
His personality, character,
reputation and authority.**

Peter says there is no other Name ever given to a human being in which salvation may be found: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"

Salvation in no other name! 4:12;



Only one way! The statement that there is **no salvation “in any other”** reveals the exclusive nature of the theology of the early church. This is true now, was true then and has always been true from the formation of the world. John 14:6; “Jesus says unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:- **no man comes to the Father, but by me.**”

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.**

Speechless! Acts 4:13-14;



Speechless! Acts 4:13-14;

13 “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

14 “But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.”

It was the presence of the man who had been a lifelong cripple who had been completely healed standing there with Peter and John that shut the mouths of these powerful rulers of the Jews.



Acts of Apostles 4:15-17;

15 “So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. 16 “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked.

“Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, we cannot deny it.”

17 “But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

The Persecution intensifies 4:18;

The Jewish leaders thought they could instill fear of punishment into the Apostles and they would shut up. But as we shall see, this was not the case.

Peter and John let them know in no uncertain terms that they could not be silenced and that their **loyalty was to God and not to man.**

In the next chapter Peter says,
“We must **obey God** rather than men”
(Acts 5:29;)

4:19; They Must Tell what They Had Seen and Heard.



In all their answers the apostles demonstrated a wisdom their enemies could not oppose or refuse, fulfilling Mark 13:11; Luke 21:15; (Acts 6:10;).

Acts of Apostles 4:18;

“Then they called them in **AGAIN** and **commanded them** not to speak or teach at all **in the name of Jesus.**”

5:40 “. . . **THEY FLOGGED THEM.**”

19 “But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

The Disciples Response?

5:42; “And **every day**, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on **teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**”

Acts of Apostles 4:19;

Peter and John said that they could not help but **PREACH** the things they had seen and heard.

This level of **personal evangelism** is much more than good influences and being nice to people.

We need to **WORK** to make **OPPORTUNITIES** to study the Bible with other people.

Boldness!

Acts 9:27-28; 13:46; 18:26; 19:8; 26:26;

The Council could not defeat Jesus.

Now they cannot defeat the Apostles.

Acts of Apostles 4:20;

They **MUST** Tell what They Had **Seen** and **Heard**.

**The Jewish Rulers Themselves
were Intimidated Acts 4:21-22;**

**21 “After further threats they let them go.
They could not decide how to punish them,
because all the people were praising God
for what had happened. 22 For the man who was
miraculously healed was over forty years old.”**

Acts of Apostles 4:20;

This man had never learned to walk, yet from the instant he had been healed could walk and leap.

His lifelong caregivers could testify to his condition, and being such **a public figure**, begging at the main entrance to the temple all those years, this had indeed been a well-publicized miracle.

Boldness!



Acts of Apostles 4:23-24;

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.



24 “When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.”

Acts of Apostles 4:23-24;

“Have made heaven, and earth...”

Different opening than they usually did, why?

The Sadducees are materialists.

They are challenged by the rationalists.

The Sadducees put their faith in the material world.

So they are praying to God who made the very material world to which the Sadducees relied upon.

“God, Sovereignty” God is not only addressed here as sovereign, but is described as having been active in accomplishing His purposes. His sovereign acts reach back to creation of everything. His wisdom in knowing beforehand what would happen is also to be seen here.

It is a statement of praise and faith to say that God has accomplished His will in all that Jesus did and endured.



Acts of Apostles 4:25-26;

25 “You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?”

26 “The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.”

Acts 4:1-26; THE FIRST PERSECUTION.

**Prepared by
Graeme Morrison**

graemestudy@gmail.com

<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>

Next in the series:- Acts 4:27-37;

A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore, a distant island on the horizon, and footprints in the sand. The sky is blue with some clouds. The water is a deep blue. The sand is a light brown color. The waves are white and foamy. The footprints are in the foreground, leading towards the water. The island is in the distance, on the horizon.

Generous Hearts Give Acts 4:27-37;

David's Prophecy Fulfilled. 4:27-28;

27 “Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.”

28 “They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.”



The Predicted Conspiracy. 4:27-28;



The Predicted Conspiracy. 4:27-28;

We hear almost daily of new conspiracy theories that purport to explain historical events such as assassinations.

Here we learn that the Jews were told about 1000 BC that one day kings and Jewish rulers would conspire to destroy the Messiah.

Peter explains how this was exactly fulfilled according to God's foreknowledge and will.

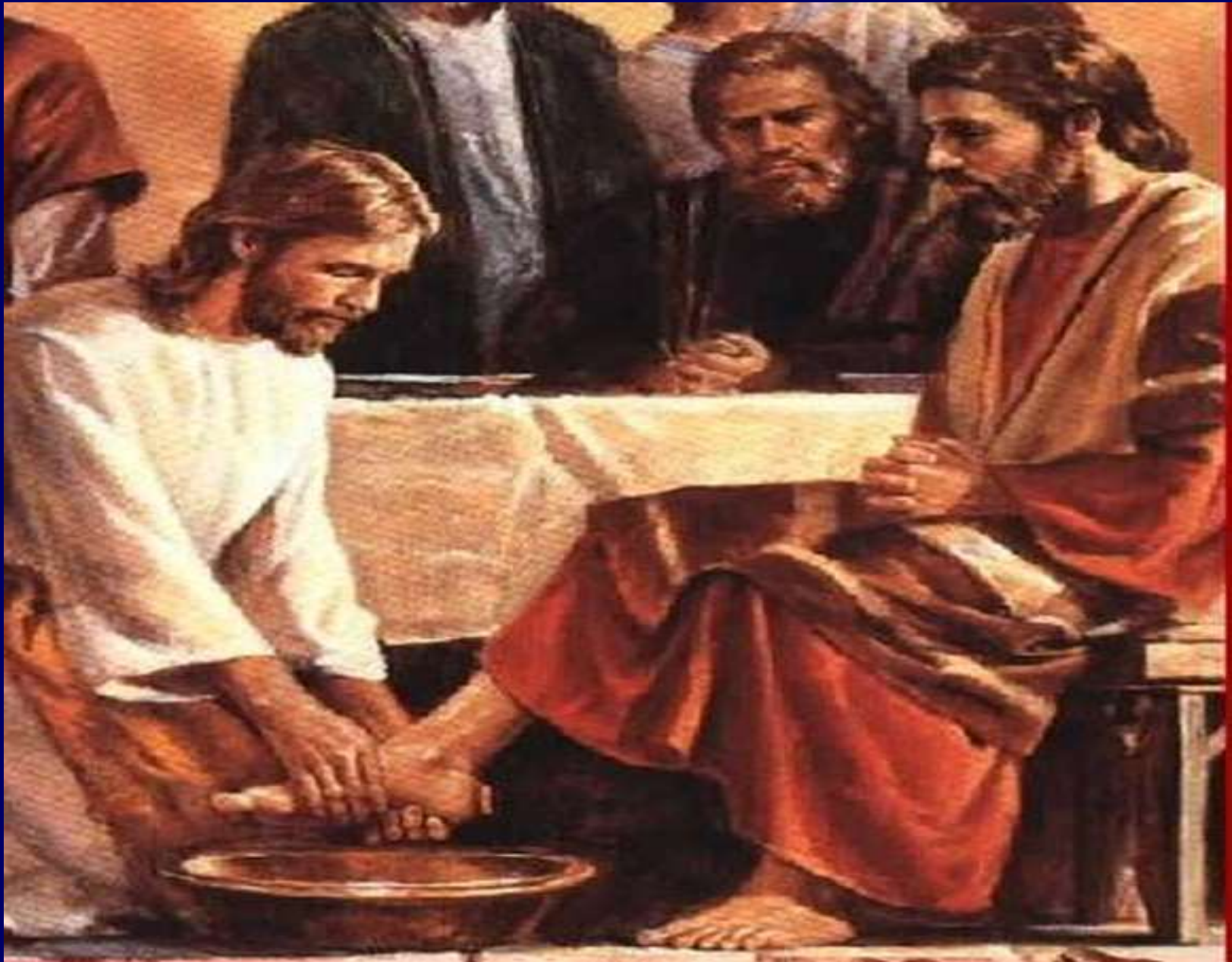
A Prayer for Courage. 4:29-30;

**29 “Now, Lord, consider their threats
and enable your servants
to speak your word with great boldness.”**



**30 “Stretch out your hand to heal and
perform miraculous signs and wonders through
the name of your holy servant Jesus.”**

Holy Servant.



Holy Servant. 4:29-30;

Of the approximately 250 names and titles of Jesus in the Bible, “**Servant**” was one that referred to the voluntary humility and attitude of selfless service of the Messiah (Isaiah 42. 52, 53; Zechariah 3:8;).

During His earthly ministry Jesus must have impressed His disciples with His submission to His Father’s will and His acceptance of the position of a servant, especially when He washed their feet (Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 20:27-28; John 13;).

The saints prayed for boldness. The word which we preach should be the same word preached by the saints in the first century.

Acts of Apostles. 4:29-30;

Just as **the apostles prayed for strength**, so too can we. However, **we** should realize that of all people, **we should be bold.**

Consider the following passages:-

Eph 3:12; Heb 4:16; 13:6; 1 John 4:17;
Prov 14:26; 28:1;

“Now we can come fearlessly right into God's presence, assured of his glad welcome when we come with Christ and trust in Him.”

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

Acts 4:31; “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the word of God with boldness.”

The Apostles asked God **to continue confirming the preached word** by His **manifestation of the supernatural power** of His existence.
(Mark 1:20; Acts 2:22,43; 5:12; Heb 2:3-4; 1 Cor 2:4;)

God answered their immediate prayer with a miraculous manifestation of His presence.
the earth quaked.

The **Holy Spirit** continued to inspire their preaching which they did **with great boldness.**

Acts 4:33; 5:12; **“The apostles** continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus **with great power,** and they were all accorded great respect.

Acts 4:31; “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the word of God with boldness.”

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

As the primary prophets of the New Testament, God granted the Apostles all the power they needed to continue their work.

**The children of God
had met its first persecution.
They grew spiritually, in faith, in numbers.**

*All
the
Believers
were one
in **Heart**
and Mind.*

A large, hand-drawn style red heart outline is positioned on the right side of the text, partially overlapping the words "Believers" and "one".

A Strong Sense of Unity and Community 4:32;

MEETING NEEDS. 4:32;

32 “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.”

The Early Christians meeting the needs of other Christians, is unlike Marxism-Leninism communism which we have seen fail in the last century.

Because most of these Jewish Christians stayed in Jerusalem beyond their planned visit in order to learn more about Jesus instead of returning to their various countries a problem was created that had to be addressed.



MEETING NEEDS.

MEETING NEEDS. 4:32;

The Jews who lived in the Land of Israel who had money or possessions they could sell and thus provide for the needs of those who lacked necessities are a wonderful example of love and sharing.

There were no NEEDY persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

They reflected the teaching of John the Baptizer that he who has two of something should share with him who has none and he who has food should share with him who has none. (Luke 3:11;)

MEETING NEEDS. 4:32;



Acts of Apostles 4:33;

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:- and great grace was upon them all.”

This intimacy did bear fruit.

They were of one mind, one soul.

They were so effective, not because they pooled their goods, but because they were that unified as a powerful fellowship.

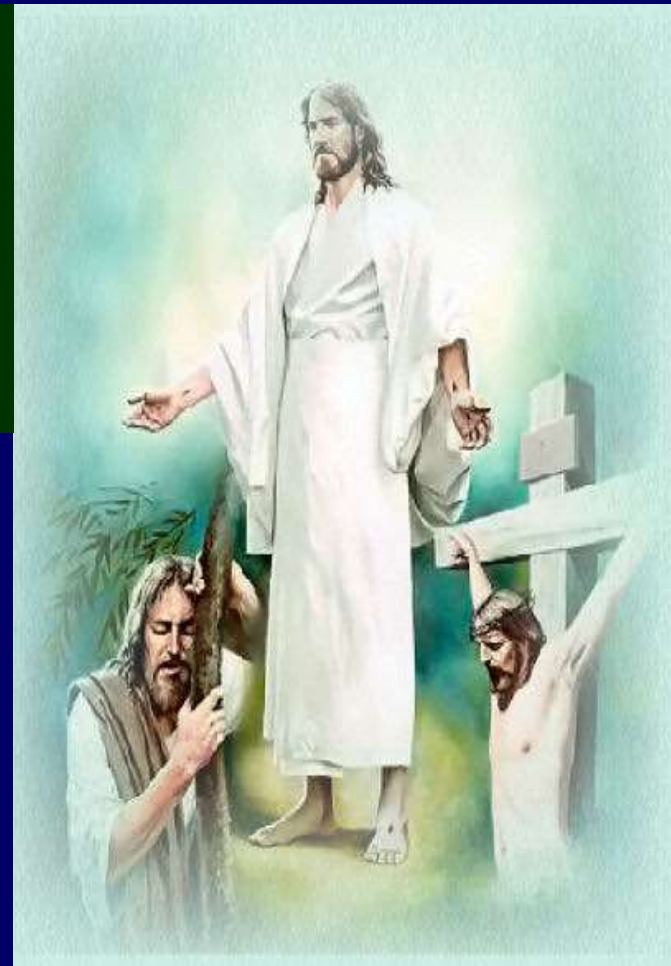
The apostles bore testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. This was the main point to be established.

Acts of Apostles 4:33;

If it was proved that the Lord Jesus came to life again after having been put to death, it established all that he taught, and was a demonstration that he was sent from God.

They exerted, therefore, all their powers to prove this; and their success was such as might have been expected.

Multitudes were converted to the Christian faith.



The Testimony. 4:33;

33 “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

The unique testimony the Apostles could give as they preached was the account of how they had seen and touched Jesus after He rose from the dead.

He had been with them often during the forty days between His resurrection and ascension. They had eaten and drunk with Him and He had continued to teach them many things about the Kingdom that was to come ten days after His ascension.

Acts of Apostles 4:32-37;

Many times, we appeal to the closeness of the brethren in the 1st century.

However, LOOK at the level of COMMITMENT on the part of the brethren to one another.

How great is our commitment towards helping other brethren? Consider the attitude expressed in Philippians. 2:1-5a;

The results of Persecution in the Early church. 4:33;

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the RESURRECTION of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”

5:14 “And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number;”

Acts 4:36; “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (it means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.”

Here we Are introduced to Barnabas,
companion of Paul on his first missionary journey
and **one who made an impact on others.**

Luke gives an illustration of **one**
who sold his property and gave the proceeds
to the apostles **to distribute to the needy.**

Barnabas was a Levite. **He was a Jew born**
in Cyprus. He had relatives in Jerusalem.
(Acts 12:12; Colossians 4:10;)

It seems **Barnabas was a man of some means.**
He did as many others did.
He saw the need of the extremely poor.

Acts 4:36; “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (it means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.”

Joseph's' name was changed
by the apostles **because he had a gift**
of encouraging people, a sign of a good leader.

He sold his inheritance and **gave**
the total price of the sale to the care of others
and the preaching of the gospel

These Jewish Christians were making
a great sacrifice because land ownership was
a strong custom and law of the Old Testament.

Their fellowship with one another was shown
in the fact that they sold some of their lands
in order to serve the needs of the family of God.

Acts 4:36; “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (it means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.”

The brethren committed the money received from the sales of goods and property into the care of the apostles, and **the apostles would distribute it, wherever it was needed** among the poor members of the congregation.

This soon became burdensome and **Inconvenient for the apostles; for they were meant to concentrate on preaching and teaching** and in the sixth chapter, we shall see men chosen to have special responsibility for this distribution.

Barnabas is Introduced. Acts 4:36;



BARNABAS AND SAUL GO OUT AS MISSIONARIES

Acts of Apostles 4:1-37; Review.

They were allowed to be Christians as long as they agreed not to share Christ.

They refused to be silent about what God was doing in their lives. They maintained a vertical perspective about their lives.

Even some of those who were their worst persecutors came to believe and be obedient and do great work for CHRIST!

Acts of Apostles 4:1-37; Review.

We have the greater freedom to share Christ, yet we are more fearful than these early Christians who were facing imprisonment and even death!

What kind of persecution do we face?

Rejection? Luke 10:16;

**“The one who listens to you listens to Me
and the one who rejects you rejects Me;
and he who rejects Me
rejects the one who sent Me.**

**Are we willing to be bold like the early church?
Letting people see our DEEDS, and proclaiming
the TRUTH BOTH are absolutely necessary!**

Acts of Apostles 4:1-37; Review.

Opposition to true Christian community, and the spreading of GOD'S LOVE is INEVITABLE.

God's radical truth, releases us from the bonds of human control, and spiritual darkness.

There is no greater threat to the world system than a Christian who is WILLING to boldly PROCLAIM and LIVE God's message. And no force can stop it except our own free will choice to quit!

Acts of Apostles 4:1-37; Review.

The rulers arrested Peter and John for preaching in the name of Jesus Christ. Peter and John gave a defence to the rulers for their preaching the name of Jesus Christ. This is the first of many instances.

Peter and John said that they could not help but preach the things they had seen and heard.

The saints prayed for boldness.

The unity of the brethren and their willingness to help one another is shown in this chapter as it was in chapter 2.



Acts of Apostles 4:1-37; Review.

The Kingdom continues to grow in numbers.

The Apostles continue to be the primary teachers and leaders in the early church.

**An attempt to intimidate them
and shut them up **has failed.****

**Through the leadership of the Apostles,
the disciples of Jesus
are solving problems as they arise.**

Acts 4:27-37;

**Prepared by
Graeme Morrison**

graemestudy@gmail.com

<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>

Next in the series:- Acts 4:32 to 5:25;