

Acts 4:1-4

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.

3 They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4 But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

Sanhedrin = the Jewish supreme court (made up of priests, elders, Sadducees & Pharisees)

➤ Resistance indicates progress—the geography of the “redemptive edge”

➤ The more intently the leaders tried to silence the movement of Jesus, the louder it became.

Acts 4:7-12

7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 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.' 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

- God is looking for the soul whose walls are built to handle the weight of His glory.
- Wholehearted followership is the foundation of all spiritual leadership.

Acts 4:13

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.

- Every life leaves a “wake” behind—what’s it like to be in the wake of your life & leadership?

Acts 4:14-18

14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. 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, and 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." 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:19-20

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."

- Sermon series, *God & Politics (a theology of government)*, August-September 2024
- Civil government and governing authorities are legitimate, but they are not ultimate.

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.

The new normal became holy crazy.

The new normal became eternal purpose.

The new normal became “my life is not my own.”

The new normal became “God’s will for my life is my life for God’s will.”

AND

The new normal became multiplied resistance.

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