

Church – The Beginnings, Part 10

Healing at the Temple – Part 3

Acts 4:1-31 – Part 3 | 01/01/2017

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

NLFJI.org

Links to Our Current Teaching Series and Previous Teachings:

Current Series: Church, The Beginnings → NLFJI.org/ACTS

Healing at the Temple – Part 3 – Miracles, the Gospel, Persecution, Investigation, and the Gospel

1. **God's Miracle of healing this man who was lame from birth led to the Gospel being Presented.**
2. **Presenting the Gospel of Christ, even if God uses an IRREFUTABLE, UNDENIABLE Miracle – it can still lead to Persecution of some of kind**
→ **Persecution is Expected:** Acts 4:1-3; Matt. 5:10-12; 10:16-39; 2 Tim. 3:12; Acts 14:22
3. **Persecution usually happens because The Gospel of Christ (when embraced and believed) Destroys the Control of the "POWERS THAT BE" over sinful people outside of Christ (that "control" keeps the people in spiritual blindness and in bondage to sin) – Acts 4:1-4**
"being GREATLY DISTURBED that they taught the people and preached in Jesus' Name: the RESURRECTION from the dead" Acts 4:2 → their Motivation to Persecute Peter and John
Peter and John knew that the **Jewish Religious/Political Party of the Sadducees** hated the **Biblical Doctrine of the Resurrection – Yet, they Preached "Jesus and the Resurrection" anyways. They did NOT cower or try to be Politically Correct or "walk on eggs shells" to avoid any confrontations. They simply Trusted and Obeyed God and Preached the Gospel of Christ.**
4. **The Investigation: "By what Power or by what 'Name' have you done this?" (Acts 4:5-7; 13-17)**
The Big Wigs of Power (Political, Social, Religious Powerful, Wealthy Powerful) are using various tactics to silence the Apostles. The **Miracle** (see Acts 3; 4:16,22) was **UNDENIABLE**, yet, those folks in Power were not persuaded by it to follow Jesus Christ. They were fully entrenched in their Social Status of Power (and its benefits) and in seeking their own way (not God's way).
In most cases, just being **jailed** and brought before these Powerful People for **investigation** was enough to **silence** most folks so that they'd never have to go through this again.
Those Powerful People were using the following tactics (tactics that Satan uses all the time):
 - a. **INTIMIDATION** – seeking to produce all kinds of fears – including fear of unknown harms
 - b. **Social Relational Threats** (fear of losing status – cast out of the local synagogue)
 - c. **Economic Threats** (fear of losing income, property, etc. – you're fired)
 - d. **Physical Threats** (fear of physical harm, even death – beatings, imprisonments, torture)
5. **The Response of Peter and John: (Acts 4:8-13; 19-20)**
 - a. **Powerful** – in the Power of the Holy Spirit
 - b. **Bold** – Strong, Courageous, Steadfast regardless of pressure to compromise
 - c. **Articulate** – Acts 4:13 – "they realized that they had been with Jesus ..."
 - d. **Factual** – "... Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised ..."
 - e. **Persuasive**
6. **The Response of the Community of Faith (i.e.: the church) – Acts 4:23-31**
 - a. **Prayer:**
 - i. **Recalling God's Promises, the Human Threats, God's Faithfulness**
 - ii. **Petitioning God to Empower them to Preach the Gospel with all Boldness while Trusting in God to perform Miracles to CONFIRM His Word (Heb. 2:3-4)**
 - b. **Preaching God's Word – Boldly, in the Power of the Holy Spirit**
(notice: **The Disciples (Christians) spread the Word of God (that was their part) and God did His Part → The Miraculous to Confirm His Word [Hebrews 2:3-4]**)

Acts 4:1-31: Now as they (Peter and John) spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, ²being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

⁵And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, ⁶as 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. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, **“By what power or by what name have you done this?”**

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by **the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.** ¹¹This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ ¹²**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ¹⁵But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶saying, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.”

¹⁸So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” ²¹So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²²For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

²³And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?

²⁶The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.’ (see *Psalms 2*)

²⁷“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

(Acts 4:1-31 [NKJV])