



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## ACTS 4:6-21

# PETER AND JOHN PREACH WITH BOLDNESS—

August 22, 2021

### INTRODUCTION:

**Chapter 3** brings to light of what Peter and John are doing.

Peter and John are about to go into the Temple at the hour of prayer (the 9<sup>th</sup> hour). A certain man who had been lame since birth was carried and laid daily at the temple gate called Beautiful to beg for alms (money; contributions). The man asks Peter and John for alms as they passed by, but the reply of Peter and John was: *"Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. They took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately, his feet and ankle bones received strength. And the man leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (3:1, 7-8). He was healed, but Peter made it very clear that it was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of their fathers who glorified His Son Jesus. *"By faith in the name of **Jesus**, has strengthened this man whom you see and know and the faith which comes through him (Jesus) had given him (the man) this perfect health in the presence of you all"* (3:12-13a, 16).*

Peter goes on to tell them, you know Him (Jesus), for He's the One who you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to let Him go (3:13b). Peter really laid it on them by telling them that they are the ones who denied and disowned the Holy One, the Just One, and desired a murderer, killing the Prince of Life whom God had raised from the dead in which they are witnesses. Again, **His** name has made the lame man strong (3:14-16). Peter tells them to repent and be converted so that their sins would be blotted out (3:19). The excitement and noise were bound to attract the attention and bring the temple authorities to the scene.

**4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,—** Peter and John were speaking to the people of Jerusalem in the temple when the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came near them.

**4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.** The priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees were grieved that Peter and John taught the people, and especially preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead (that in Jesus the dead rise). This was a doctrine in which the Sadducees violently denied and opposed (Mark 12:18, 24-27). They also didn't believe in angel nor spirit (Acts 23:8). The officials were threatened by the preaching of Jesus being raised from the dead.

**4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.** The priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees being so grieved at Peter and John that they laid hands on them, arrested them, and put them into prison until the next day: for it was already evening; late in the afternoon, and too late for a trial.

**4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.** But many of the people that heard the Word Peter spoke believed. It reached to the amount of a high number of about five thousand men.

**4:5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,—** The next day the rulers, the elders, and scribes, part of the Sanhedrin, the ruling body of the Jews came.

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LESSON:

## I. STERN INTERROGATION ACTS 4:6-7

**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.** Annas, the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, many of relatives of the high priest, gathered together at Jerusalem—known as the Council or the Jewish Sanhedrin—a legislative body of 71 members headed by the high priest. They could condemn to death, but could not execute, for this was done by the Romans alone.

**4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?**— The interrogation began as they set Peter and John in the midst of them asking point blank, straight to the point: *"By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?"* Two things come to mind:

1. They knew Peter was preaching the resurrection through Jesus Christ. They had to stop it or risk losing the loyalty of the people and their position and livelihood, so they were seeking an opportunity to accuse and stop Peter and John.
2. They didn't think the power could be of God because if God was to choose anyone it would be revealed to them, the traditional religious leaders. They felt the name and power to heal the crippled man must be diabolical (demonic).

## II. BOLD PROCLAMATION ACTS 4:8-12

**4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,**— Peter and John were both filled with the Holy Ghost, but Peter's bold faith just couldn't be quiet, guided by the Holy Spirit, he addresses the *"... rulers of the people, and elders of Israel..."*

**4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;**— Saying *"if we are examined today for doing a good deed for a lame man, as to how this man was healed."* If you're examining us for doing something good for a crippled man and how was he healed...

**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.** Peter reiterates again the same thing he's said in chapter 3. *Let it be known unto all, and to all the people of Israel.*" Peter credits that *"It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified; whom God raised from the dead. It is even by His authority that this man stands here before you healed."* Peter was declaring that men must know that it was the power of the resurrected and ascended true Messiah, the Savior whom God promised to send into the world, and there must be no doubt. It was this Jesus alone who made the man whole in both body and soul—healed. If you get nothing else, seven bold proclamations came forth out of this:

1. It was done not in our power, but by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth!
2. You crucified Him!
3. God raised Him from the dead!
4. Here's the proof standing before you whole by Jesus' power!

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

5. He's the stone you despised and rejected!
6. He has become the head of the corner—the Chief Cornerstone!

Peter describes who Jesus is. *Jesus is the stone, the "Head" stone that the builders despised and rejected.* The "builders" were the religious rulers. They had counted Jesus as "nought" (no good, unacceptable, of no account, of no worth). The rulers were about finding their own chief stone, building their lives as they wished. However, Jesus has become the Chief Cornerstone. When building a physical building, the chief stone (first stone; capstone) is laid as the foundational stone. Then the other stones are laid next to and upon the chief stone. In the spiritual





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Building, Jesus is the "Chief Cornerstone" laid as our foundational stone that we build upon and shapes us. He's our "Living Stone" (1 Peter 2:4) and we also are living stones being built up as a spiritual house 1 Peter 2:5). The "Chief Cornerstone" unites the church.

**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.**

7. Salvation is only found in Jesus Christ, none other name under heaven!

Jesus Christ alone saves. Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ, therefore no man can be saved (1) by any other head or lord, *neither* (2) *is there salvation* by any other name under heaven *given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" That's why God sent His only begotten Son.

## III. FRANTIC DAMAGE CONTROL ACTS 4:13-21

**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 "Sanhedrin" could see that Peter and John's boldness and power was not due to education and learning. Their boldness stood out, but it was obvious that...

- They were "uneducated", meaning of what the religious leaders thought.
- They were "unlearned", meaning they had no kind of formal education.
- And they were "ignorant men", meaning that they were laymen with no special professional qualifications.

The religious leaders were in wonder and amazement. They recognized and perceived that it was due to them having been with Jesus. Peter and John had stayed close to Jesus, and showed first-hand the boldness and power of their master.

**4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.** The enemies of Christ could not deny the tremendous miracle, for the man that had been healed was clearly standing right there beside them.

**4:15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,—** So Peter and John were sent out from the Council's chamber so they could discuss the matter among themselves and reach a verdict.

**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.** They were asking each other as to what should be done with Peter and John.

- They acknowledged that a notable miracle hath been done. The Council could hardly discredit the healing.
- All the people knew the man had been transformed.
- The man made whole stood before them. Everyone in Jerusalem knew about it.

**4:17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.** The rulers knew they must stop the new movement, suppress it from spreading any further among the people. So, they thought if they threaten them, saying '*don't keep spreading this and don't speak this name to anyone again.*' People were beginning to believe of the Resurrection (4:4).

**4:18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.** Peter and John were called back in, commanding them never again to speak nor teach in the name of Jesus. The court's orders had to be obeyed, or else Peter and John would face severe consequences.

**4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to**

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**Hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.** But Peter and John refused to compromise their message and boldly replied, *"You're all judges, then you judge, is it right in the sight of God to listen to you more than God? Two things:*

1. God is to be obeyed before men.

**4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.** Peter says *"We cannot but speak the things which we ae seen and heard."* We are sometimes afraid to share our faith in God because people might feel uncomfortable, disapprove, or reject us. But Peter and John's zeal for the Lord was so strong, that they could not keep quiet, even when threatened.

2. A man must testify to what he has seen and heard.

**4:21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.** The Council further threatened Peter and John, and finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot, for everyone was praising God for this wonderful miracle which was done.

## SUMMARY:

Annas, the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, many of relatives of the high priest, gathered together at Jerusalem—known as the Council or the Jewish Sanhedrin—a legislative body of 71 members headed by the high priest. They could condemn to death but could not execute. This was done by the Romans alone. The interrogation began as they set Peter and John in the mists of them asking point blank, straight to the point: *"By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" (4:6-7).*

Peter, being filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit, said to them, *"Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, if we are examined today for doing a good deed for a lame man, as to how was this man healed. Let it be known unto all, and to all the people of Israel, seven bold proclamations came forth—1.) It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom 2.) you crucified; and 3.) God raised Him from the dead. It is even 4.) by His authority that this man stands here before you healed (4:8-9). 5.) He is the stone despised and rejected by you builders. 6.) But He has become the Cornerstone. 7.) There is no salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* That's why God sent His only begotten Son (4:10-12) **(4:8-12).**

When the *"Sanhedrin"* saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. They could see that they were obviously uneducated; unlearned and ignorant men. They couldn't deny the tremendous miracle for the man had been healed and standing right there beside them. So they sent them out of the Council chamber and discussed among themselves (4:13-15). They were asking each other as to what should be done with Peter and John. And the Council could hardly discredit the healing, for everyone in Jerusalem knew about it. They didn't want it spreading any further. So they thought if they threaten them saying: *'don't keep spreading this and don't speak this name to anyone again.'* The leaders called them back in, commanding them never again to speak nor teach in the name of Jesus (4:16-18). But Peter and John boldly replied, *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than God, then you judge, for we cannot but speak the things which we ae seen and heard."* So the Council threatened them further and finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot, for everyone was praising God for this wonderful miracle which was done— the healing of a man who had been lame for forty years (4:19-22) **(4:13-22).**