

## A Study in Acts

Lesson 5: Acts 4:5 – 5:11

### Peter and John Before the Council

Act 4:5-7 KJV

#### **Who Were the Sanhedrin?**

This assembly was known as the \_\_\_\_\_, a form of \_\_\_\_\_.

The council chamber in which they met was traditionally in the temple; but about \_\_\_\_\_, they changed their meeting place to a court on the east side of the temple. This had been done by the time Matthew recorded:

Mat 26:57 KJV

#### **Who Was Really High Priest?**

A lot of biblical critics who make some big thing out of the various references in the New Testament to \_\_\_\_\_ as high priest, or to \_\_\_\_\_ as high priest, are only quibbling. Luke denominated both as holders of that office concurrently, "in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas" (Luke 3:2), hence it was altogether correct to refer to either one of them as high priest.

#### **What Are the Charges?**

It should be pointed out that the Greek word translated "ye" here is scornful in nature. In modern English, it might be translated "people like you".

The fact is the Sanhedrin had not been able to formulate any charge against the apostles.

### **Peter Preaches to the Council**

Act 4:8-12 KJV

#### **Peter is Respectful**

Peter's respectful language here teaches the same deference and respect of public officials which are binding upon all Christians. Also, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus to the Twelve is kept that they should not be concerned about what they should say when arraigned before earthly authorities, because the \_\_\_\_\_ in that hour would give them the message they were to deliver.

Mat 10:17-19 KJV

#### **But Peter is Bold**

Peter moved quickly to the attack, charging the Sanhedrin with murdering the Son of God, and affirming that the great miracle in view had been accomplished by the authority of that same \_\_\_\_\_ whom they had crucified.

A prophecy was made in the Psalms:

[Psa 118:22 KJV](#)

Peter had been present when the Lord first used this figure of himself.

[Mat 21:42 KJV](#)

### ***All People are Saved One Way***

It should be pointed out that the Greek word translated “we” in verse 12 is all inclusive. It includes everyone present: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ alike. So Peter, in his final sentence, is offering an invitation once again.

### **The Response of the Sanhedrin**

[Act 4:13-18 KJV](#)

The Sanhedrin clearly had a problem. They could not deny what \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ had done because the evidence stood before them. Yet, since Peter and John claimed that \_\_\_\_\_ was responsible for the healing and attached Jesus authority to mankind’s salvation, they clearly were taking all authority given to the council away. So the council went into private to discuss it.

### ***If You Can’t Beat Them, Threaten Them***

Truth was no consideration to the Sanhedrin and the best thing they could think of, at the moment, was to \_\_\_\_\_ them. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the new faith made the murder of the Twelve inexpedient at the moment.

### ***The Forbidden Name Spoken***

In the book of John, the man born blind was brought before the Sanhedrin and his parents refused to speak the name of Jesus because it had been forbidden:

[Joh 9:19-22 KJV](#)

So hear again, the Sanhedrin insist that Jesus not be declared publicly to be the Son of God and Christ.

### **Peter and John Refuse**

[Act 4:19-22 KJV](#)

Peter and John refuse to accept the Sanhedrin’s “\_\_\_\_\_”. Sanhedrin could not punish them because they had the evidence of a 40 year old lame man, now healed, standing before them and the people. So they released them from custody.

### **Peter and John Report**

[Act 4:23 KJV](#)

It is not clear if “their own company” is the other 10 Apostles, the original 120 members of the church, or some number of the 8 to 10 thousand members they now had. But clearly, they let the Church know what was happening.

## ***The Disciples Pray***

Act 4:24-30 KJV

Notice here, that the prayer is not for \_\_\_\_\_. Nor is it a prayer for harm or any calamity to befall their enemies. The prayer is for the \_\_\_\_\_ to do the will of God and for a continuation of the powers granted them to do God's will.

## ***The Response to Prayer***

Act 4:31 KJV

God lets his presence be known again. The threat of civil authorities is ignored, and the Apostles continue to preach the word of God boldly.

## **Taking Care of the Brethren**

Act 4:32-37 KJV

## **A Problem in the Church**

Acts 5:1-6

### ***The Love of Money...***

The word \_\_\_\_\_ that starts this passage clearly connects it with the previous verse. Why a chapter division was placed here, is beyond my ability to decipher.

This event was a dramatic change from the wonderful miracles of mercy and healing which, until then, had marked the deeds of the apostles; but it was necessary that the severity of God, as well as his mercy, should be stressed..

Note that the sin here is NOT that he kept something back, but that he lied about it.

### ***Like Husband, Like Wife***

Acts 5:7-10

However the divine judgment of \_\_\_\_\_ might have shocked and surprised Peter, he could not have been unaware of the judgment that would befall \_\_\_\_\_ in case she was guilty. Her unhesitating reply proved they had conspired together. She, therefore, received the same punishment.

Acts 5:11

It is highly likely that man present at this time had been tempted like Ananias and Sapphira to pretend a holiness they did not possess; and this sudden judgment led to the widespread conclusion among them to the effect that "There but for the grace of God am I." This divine act, therefore, had the consequence of impressing upon the young church the awful consequences of sin, and of warning non-Christians of the danger of associating themselves with the new and popular movement for purely selfish motives. This great fear upon both Christians and outsiders was precisely the effect desired