

**Calvary Chapel on the Horizon**  
**August 22, 2021**  
**Acts Chapter 4 “On Trial for Jesus”**

**I. Introduction**

**Read: Act 4:1-4**

**We have been looking at the early church here in the book of Acts...Jesus told us to make disciples in **Matt 28,****

- † **Jesus told us how to do it in Act 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
  
- † **In Acts chapter 2, we saw the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples and Peter preached to the crowd and 3000 were saved...Act 2:46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
  
- † **In Acts chapter 3, Peter and John came upon a lame man at the temple and the Lord healed Him through Peter and...Peter then again preached to the crowd and this time 5000 were saved upon hearing:**
  
- † **Act 3:26** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.
  
- † **BUT! As so often happens when we share the gospel, or sometimes even when we simply proclaim that we are Christians...persecution arises.**
  
- † **We have seen this type of persecution in China, Iran and the middle east, Central America and Russia, and we are now seeing it in Afghanistan...where the Taliban are going door to door killing anyone with a Bible or a Bible app on their phones...(again, an important reason to hide the Word in your hearts and not just your phones or as a book on the shelf!)**

**II. The Examination**

**Act 4:5-14** And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, 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. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 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. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- † **(v5) “on the morrow” – this is the next day from healing the lame man...**

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon  
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- † (v6) Anna and Caiaphas sent Jesus to Pilate... and in (v10) Peter tells them that they crucified Him!
- † (v7) “what power or by what name are you doing this?”
- † (v9) Peter spoke while “filled with the Holy Ghost” – this is the only way to speak or minister!
  - † **Remember: 2Ti 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
  - † **Jesus, in speaking of future persecution said in Luk 12:11-12** And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: (12) For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.
- † (v10) **Look at v.10 again:** 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.
- † **Note: This man was healed by the name of Jesus!**
- † **Remember:** “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:10-11).
  - When you call on Jesus, your attitude and heart condition will change. Satan hates it when you call on the name of Jesus.
  - When you say Jesus, you are saying, “**Greater is He [Jesus] that’s in me than he that’s in the world**”(1 Jh 4:4).
  - When you say Jesus you saying, “**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**” (Philippians 4:13).
  - When you say Jesus you are saying, “**No weapon formed against you shall prosper**” (Is. 54:17).
  - **Paul said in 2Co 4:8-10** We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.
- † **And in v.11, Peter tells them that Jesus is the rejected corner stone: He is the point by which if we align our lives with Him, they will be straight and square!**
- † (v12) **There is NO OTHER NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved!**
- † **Jn 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**Acts 4:13** Now when they 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.  
14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

**Calvary Chapel on the Horizon**  
**August 22, 2021**  
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- † (v13) They saw that Peter and John were ignorant & unlearned men yet they saw the boldness and sound mind that comes from the Holy Spirit!
- † Also note: all we NEED to serve Jesus is a walk with Jesus (which comes through the Word) and to be filled with the Holy Spirit!
- † You don't have to be saved 100 yrs before you serve...during the Jesus movement people got saved and turned around that same day and shared what Jesus had done with them! >> It's your testimony ☺

### III. The Verdict: Not Guilty

**Act 4:15-22** But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 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. 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. 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. 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. 22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

- † (v16) “we cannot deny it (the miracle of healing) [look at v22 – the man was 40 yrs old in this condition].
- † (v18) Since they didn't have a legal “Leg to stand on”, they resorted to bullying...a common tactic among those who oppose Jesus.
- † Again, thinking about Christians in Afghanistan as it is in our faces: what would we do if we were in their shoes? Maybe the Holy Spirit would tell you to flee as some have, but I have heard and read stories this week of other Christians who know the Holy Spirit has called them to stay and they know they will be killed. All for a witness to the Muslims of Jesus!
- † We must remember: **Mat 5:10-11** Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- † (v19) BUT, their answer should be our response as well...is it better to listen to men, or to God?
- † **Psa 118:8-9** It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. (9) It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

**Calvary Chapel on the Horizon**  
**August 22, 2021**  
**Acts Chapter 4 “On Trial for Jesus”**

- † **Ecc 12:13-14** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.
- † **Pro 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

#### **IV. They Spoke the Word of God with Boldness**

**Act 4:23-31** And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. 29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

† **(v23-28) They were rejoicing and worshipping the Lord because of the opposition!**

- **Mat 5:11-12** Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. (12) Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

† **v29) We can ask for the same type of things...boldness, miracles and “signs & wonders”!**

† **(v31) After they had prayed...again, they are meeting together as a congregation and praying together for God’s will to be done...and they spoke with boldness – not timidity, fright or embarrassment!**

#### **V. Community**

**Act 4:32-37** And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had

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**Acts Chapter 4 “On Trial for Jesus”**

need. 36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

✝ **The fruit of the Spirit is love...consequently, they took care of each other and gave as led by the Lord ...**

**VI. Conclusion**

**What would you do in the face of persecution?**

**How would you handle it if you were told you couldn't read a Bible or share Jesus with others?**

**Would you pray and ask to be filled with the Spirit so as to have “all boldness”?**

>> These are **Important Questions** for Christians right now...