

ACTS 4

1. Whom did the apostles teach that which they had learned from Jesus?

-All of the believers in the Lord Jesus, that is, the Church.

2. Who reminded the apostles of everything that Jesus had taught them?

-The Holy Spirit.

3. What else did the Holy Spirit teach the apostles?

-All the other truths which Jesus wanted the Church to know.

4. What did the Holy Spirit also do so that all people could understand the teachings of Jesus?

-The Holy Spirit guided the apostles to write down these teachings in the Bible.

5. What did the Christians in Jerusalem do together as a Church?

-First, the Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

-Secondly, the Christians devoted themselves to fellowship with one another.

-Thirdly, the Christians remembered Jesus' death by eating bread and drinking wine.

-Fourthly, the Christians devoted themselves to prayer.

-In Jerusalem, what did the Christians do?

-They continued learning the Word of God.

-They continued helping and giving to one another.

-They continued in prayer with one another.

-They continued witnessing to non Christians about Jesus.

-This next story is about Peter and John who were two of the apostles of Jesus.

-The Holy Spirit used Peter and John to write some of the books in the Bible.

-One day, when Peter and John went to the temple:

Let's read Acts 3:1

1-One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.

-Even though God ripped the curtain in the temple when Jesus died, the Jews continued to go to the temple to worship God.

-Do you remember why God ripped the curtain from top to bottom in the temple?

-To show that it was no longer necessary to sacrifice

animals.

-To show that Jesus' death on the cross had opened the way to God.

-The Bible does not tell us what the priests did about the ripped curtain, but they probably had it sewed.

-The Jewish leaders and most of the Jews still did not believe that Jesus was the Savior and that God had raised Him from the dead.

-They still continued to go to the temple to offer animal sacrifices which could never take away their sins.

-Even the apostles and believers continued to go to the temple.

-But they no longer offered animal sacrifices, and met separately in one part of the temple to worship God.

-Luke, the writer of this book, now tells of a miracle which Jesus did through Peter and John as they were entering one of the gates to the temple.

Let's read Acts 3:2-5

2-Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple

courts.

3-When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

4-Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

5-So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

-What do you think Peter and John would give this man?

-Some food, or some money, or some clothes?

-This is what Peter said:

Let's read Acts 3:6

6-Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

-In whose name did Peter tell this man to stand up and walk?

-In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

-Nazareth was the hometown of Jesus when He lived in Galilee.

-Peter called Jesus "Jesus Christ of Nazareth" so that this man would know about whom he was speaking.

-Even the Jews who did not believe that Jesus was the Savior knew that Jesus of Nazareth had been crucified.

-Do you think the man was able to stand up and walk?

Let's read Acts 3:7-8

7-Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

8-He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

-The lame man had been crippled from birth, and had never walked.

-Yet, after many years, he immediately stood up, walking and jumping and praising God.

-This is how we know that the healing of the lame man is only from God.

-Many Jews were in the temple that day.

-They understood that the man who was now leaping for joy had been begging at the temple gate for many years.

Let's read Acts 3:9-11

9-When all the people saw him walking and

praising God,

10-they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11-While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

-After the lame man was healed, all who were at the temple crowded around Peter and John.

-This was a good time for Peter and John to teach the people about Jesus.

-Here is what God through Peter said:

Let's read Acts 3:12-16

12-When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

13-The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.

14-You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

15-You killed the author of life, but God raised

him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

16-By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see."

-Was it the power of Peter and John that healed the lame man?

-No.

-Was it the holiness of Peter and John that healed the lame man?

-No.

-Was it the faith of the lame man that healed him?

-No.

-The lame man had no idea that he was going to be healed.

-What did Peter tell the people about how the lame man was healed?

-Peter said that Jesus alone healed the lame man.

-Peter also said that even though the Jews had given over Jesus to be crucified, God raised Him from the dead.

-Then, what did Peter say?

Let's read Acts 3:19-21

19-[Peter said] "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

20-and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

21-He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets."

-Even though the Jews did not understand that Jesus was the Savior, God still wanted them to repent and be saved.

-Even though the Jews killed Jesus, God still wanted them to repent and be saved.

-God also promised that when Jesus returns to earth, all who repent will be blessed by God.

-Then, what did Peter say?

Let's read Acts 3:22-24

22-[Peter said] "For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.

23-Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.'

24-“Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days.”

-Peter taught the Word of God from the Old Testament, repeating that which Moses and the prophets said.

-All who reject Jesus the Savior will be separated from God’s people and be punished forever.

-Finally, Peter reminded the people that Jesus’ death and resurrection fulfilled God’s promise to Abraham.

Let’s read Acts 3:25-26

25-[Peter said] “And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’

26-When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

-Forgiveness of sins through Jesus was first offered to the Jews and, after that, to all the people of the world.

-Who controlled Peter so he could witness to the Jews?
-The Holy Spirit.

-Although Jesus was using Peter and John to witness, did Satan want more people to hear the truth and believe?

-No.

Let’s read Acts 4:1-3

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.

-What did God then allow to happen to Peter and John?

-They were put in jail.

-Even though Peter and John were put in jail, what happened to the people who heard Peter’s message?

Let’s read Acts 4:4

4-But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

-Even though Peter and John were put in jail, God used Peter’s message to save more than five thousand people.

-The Jewish leaders who put Peter and John in jail were the ones who paid Judas to betray Jesus.

-These Jewish leaders also persuaded Pilate to crucify Jesus even though Pilate wanted to release Him.

-The next morning, what did the Jewish leaders ask Peter and John?

Let's read Acts 4:7

7-They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

-What did the Jewish leaders want to know?

-They wanted to know how Peter and John were able to heal the crippled man.

-What did Peter reply?

Let's read Acts 4:8-11

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."

-The Bible tells us that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit.

-Because Peter allowed the Holy Spirit to control him, the Holy Spirit gave Peter the right words to answer these Jewish leaders.

-The Holy Spirit lives in every one of us who believe in Christ.

-It is our responsibility to allow the Holy Spirit to control us at all times.

-If we depend on our own wisdom, we will sin against God.

-If we depend on our own strength, we will sin against God.

-If we depend on ourselves, we will think, say, and do things in our own sinful way.

-If, however, we allow the Holy Spirit to control us, He will enable us to do the will of God.

-Because Peter was controlled by the Holy Spirit, he was able to fearlessly witness to these men who killed Jesus.

-All Christians are able to witness the way God wants if we learn His Word and allow the Holy Spirit to control

us.

Then, what did Peter say?

Let's read Acts 4:11

11-[Peter said] "He is `the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.'"

-The Jews built many of their buildings with stone.

-Therefore, Peter said that the Jewish leaders were like builders who examined a certain stone, decided it was not good enough, and threw it away.

-The Jewish leaders had heard Jesus teach and saw the miracles He had done.

-But they decided that Jesus was not who He claimed to be, and they threw Him away and crucified Him.

-This was, however, not the end.

-God also examined Jesus,

-God's examination of Jesus was very different from the Jewish leaders.

-God fully approved of Jesus.

-What did Peter tell the Jewish leaders that God did with Jesus whom they had discarded like builders discard a bad stone?

-God gave Jesus the highest position in heaven and earth.

-God made Jesus the most important stone, and placed Him in the highest position in heaven as Lord and Christ.

-What else did Peter say to the Jewish leaders?

Let's read Acts 4:12

12-[Peter said], "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

-Peter also said that Jesus is the only Savior of sinners.

-Do you think these Jewish leaders who hated and crucified Jesus were pleased with Peter and John's answer?

-No, they were not.

-They were, however, surprised that Peter and John were so bold because they had the power to have them killed.

Let's read Acts 4:13-18

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.

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.

-Why were the Jewish leaders surprised that Peter and John were so bold?

-Because Peter and John were simple fishermen.

-Because Peter and John were of little education.

-Because Peter and John should have been afraid of them.

-Before Jesus returned to heaven, He commanded the apostles to be His representatives, and to witness to all

people about Him.

-Now these Jewish leaders were commanding them to be quiet and not to tell others that Jesus is the Savior.

-What should Peter and John do?

-Should they obey the Jewish leaders and disobey Jesus' command?

-God tells us in His Word that we should obey the rulers in our villages and in our countries.

-Yet, should we obey rulers when they tell us to disobey God?

-No.

-What did Peter and John answer when the Jewish leaders told them never to witness again about Jesus?

Let's read 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.”

-What did Peter and John reply?

-They said that they must obey God and tell others of Jesus.

-They said that they must witness about what they had seen and heard.

-When Peter and John were released, what did they do?

Let's read Acts 4:23

23-On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

-Peter and John were released, and they did the best thing they could do.

-They went back to the gathering of believers and shared what had happened.

-When the Church heard what the Jewish leaders had said, what did they do?

Let's read Acts 4:24-30

24-When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

25-You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the

mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

26-The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

27-Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

28-They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

29-Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

30-Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

-When the Church heard what the Jewish leaders had said, they did the best thing they could do.

-They all prayed together to God.

-They prayed for God's help to continue to do His will.

-They prayed that they would not be afraid.

-They prayed that they would not be silenced by the threatening of the Jewish leaders.

-What should we do if people threaten us because of our testimony of faith in Jesus?

-What should we do when we face difficulties, problems, and temptations?

-We should do what the early Church did.

-We should tell the Church so we can pray together with the Church for God's help and God's answers.

-When we witness to non Christians, we should pray together with the Church so that God will open the hearts of the non Christians to believe the truth.

-Did God hear the prayer of the Church?

Let's read Acts 4:31

31-After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

-What was the result of the prayers of the Church?

-Was Satan able to stop them from doing God's will?

-No.

-Did the believers in Christ stop telling people about Jesus?

-No.

Let's read Acts 4:32-33

32-All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

33-With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

-Even though the early Church had difficulties, there were three good results from these difficulties:

-First, the love and unity of the Christians were strengthened.

-The Christians became closer to one another, and loved one another more.

-Secondly, the Christians told others about Jesus without fear and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

-The Christians learned that Peter and John had spoken without fear and in the power of the Holy Spirit, and this encouraged them to do the same.

-Thirdly, God's blessing was upon all of the Christians.

-The Christians were greatly blessed to be a part of God's work on earth.