

Please put your name here

Study No. 3

The Life of Peter - Before the Sanhedrin



Acts 4: 1-31



Acts 4: 13

Suggested Further Reading

Luke 12: 11 & 12 2 Timothy 1: 8 & 9; 4: 2 1 Peter 2: 20-24

1. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin Council (verses 1-22).

In the Bible Reading, Peter and John are still in the Temple by Solomon's Porch addressing the people gathered around them. With them is the lame man whom Peter has just healed in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Who came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people?

1.
2.
3.

3

About what were they upset?

1

So they arrested them and put them in jail until the following day, when they were brought before the Council in Jerusalem. The Council consisted of a large number of important men from the Jewish community.

Fill in the boxes:-

The name of the High Priest.

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1

The three members of his family, who are named.

3



Three other groups of people.

3

Peter, only a few months before, had been afraid to stand up for Jesus, (John 18: 17, 25-27) but now he demonstrated what a difference the coming of the Holy Spirit had made in his life. Peter boldly stated his convictions as to who the Lord Jesus is (verses 8-12), so much so that the Council was astonished at the courageous words of both Peter and John. In part, their astonishment arose from the fact that the apostles were from a humble background.

What does the Key Verse say the Council knew about the apostles?

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1

The Sanhedrin concluded that the change in them was due to the fact that they had been with Jesus. You, too, may be an 'ordinary person' who does not have an important place in society. The thing that matters, however, is this: Do you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? If you do, then the Holy Spirit has come to live in your heart and He will give you the words to say when you are under attack about your faith. Christians have to make a stand for the Lord, especially at home and at school. But you're not on your own! The Holy Spirit is with you and will help you (Luke 12: 11 & 12).



What did the Council ask Peter and John?

	2
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What question did the Council discuss among themselves?

	2
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The healed man was living proof that the miracle had really happened the day before, and the Sanhedrin knew they could not pull the wool over the people's eyes about that. Unfortunately, they weren't actually interested in the truth or in people. They were concerned only with themselves and what would happen to them if this teaching about Jesus continued to spread.

What did they decide to do?

	1
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Write IN YOUR OWN WORDS what Peter and John said in response to this command.

	1
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In this chapter, Peter and John preached the Gospel, firstly to the ordinary people, and secondly to the Council. Their preaching provoked two very different reactions: the response of faith (verse 4) and the opposition of the Council (verse 18). However, the most striking feature of the chapter is not the fact of Jewish opposition to the apostles, but the way in which the believers in the Lord Jesus responded to it.

2. The Believers' Response (verses 23-31).

What did the believers do when they heard from Peter and John what had happened to them?

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They started with an outpouring of praise to God as Creator (verse 24), and as Sovereign Lord, whose plans can never fail (verse 28). They did not request that the opposition be silenced or that they be protected from their threats.

Explain, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, what they asked God for (verses 29 & 30).

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God answered the first part of their prayer immediately (verse 31) and as we read through the rest of the Acts, we find He also answered the second part. We have a God who delights to answer His people's prayers.

For teacher's remarks

Total	20
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