

**"Facing the Sanhedrin"**

**Part 2**

**Acts 4**

**Introduction:** Four weeks ago in our study of Acts we stopped in 4:8 where Peter was about to answer the Sanhedrin. He and John had been set in the midst of the Sanhedrin, as they were questioned for healing the lame man.

**Notice Acts 4:6-7**

The Sanhedrin were demanding that Peter tell them by what power or by what name they had performed the miracle.

**I. Peter's Boldness**

**Notice Acts 4:8-10**

When I read these verses, I immediately think of the change in Peter. Let us reflect back to what happened when Jesus was arrested.

**Matthew 26:69-75**

*<sup>69</sup> Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.*

*<sup>70</sup> But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.*

*<sup>71</sup> And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.*

*<sup>72</sup> And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.*

*<sup>73</sup> And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.*

*<sup>74</sup> Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.*

*<sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.*

This was not too far from the events here in Acts chapter 4. We see an incredible difference in Peter. Here in Acts 4 he is standing up to the most powerful court in

Jerusalem and there is no thought of backing down. What brought about this change? Jesus met Peter after the resurrection and spoke with Him several times. One of those meetings had significant impact because of what Jesus said.

**Luke 24:44-48**

<sup>44</sup> *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

<sup>45</sup> **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.**

<sup>46</sup> *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:*

<sup>47</sup> *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

<sup>48</sup> *And ye are witnesses of these things.*

Here we see that Jesus opened their understanding concerning the Old Testament Scriptures and how they pointed to Jesus death and resurrection. As Peter began to grasp the Truth of the Word his faith began to increase. The growth which we have been looking at in 2 Peter was happening in Peter.

**2 Peter 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

<sup>6</sup> *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;*

<sup>7</sup> *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

<sup>8</sup> *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Application:**

This is what happens to us as believers, we grow in the knowledge of the Word. Our faith increases and with that increase in faith comes courage to stand for the Truth just as Peter is doing here in Acts 4.

**Notice Acts 4:11**

Here in this verse Peter reaches back to the Psalms and quotes what the Psalmist wrote.

**Psalm 118:22**

*<sup>22</sup> The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.*

Jesus is called the Chief Corner Stone in the New Testament.

**Ephesians 2:19-20**

*<sup>19</sup> Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

*<sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

**1 Peter 2:6-7**

*<sup>6</sup> Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

*<sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,*

Jesus, as the Corner Stone sets the standard for the church. The corner stone of a building was a stone that was perfect. It was square the entire way around and all other measurements were taken from the cornerstone. The building was leveled, squared, and plumbed from the corner stone. In the same way Jesus sets the standards for the church and the church is built upon Him.

**Matthew 16:13-18**

*<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

*<sup>14</sup> And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*

*<sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

*<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

*17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

*18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

**Notice Acts 4:11 again.**

When Peter spoke of Jesus as the STONE the minds of the religious leaders should have gone back to what Daniel wrote.

**Daniel 2:34-36, 44-45**

*34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

*35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

*36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.*

*44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

*45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold: the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*

Getting back to Acts 4:11, Peter was very bold when he spoke the Truth. He confronted the religious leaders concerning their rejection of the Chief Corner Stone, Jesus Christ.

**Notice Acts 4:12**

Peter now makes it very clear the Stone which they rejected is the ONLY means of salvation for mankind. The word "SAVED" at the end of this verse is the very same word used in verse 9 for the physical healing of the lame man.

**Notice Acts 4:9**

The words "made whole" are the same word. Here in verse 9 it speaks of physical healing and in verse 12 it is speaking of spiritual healing.

**Notice Acts 4:12 again.**

Peter uses the word "MUST" to make clear that ALL people need forgiveness. Jesus did the very same thing when speaking with Nicodemus.

**John 3:7**

*<sup>7</sup> Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

In Acts 4:12 Peter is very clear that there is only ONE way of forgiveness/salvation for mankind and that is through Jesus Christ.

**John 14:6**

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

God was the One who was offended by sin and therefore it is He who has determined the Way of forgiveness. Many people believe that man can make his own path to heaven, and they believe it makes no difference what path you chose as long as you are sincere. The majority of the world today despise Christianity because of Jesus claim to be the only Way. Instead of accepting and believing the Words of Jesus man would much rather make his own god and his own way that will work in harmony with his own lifestyle. These people are guilty of violating the second Commandment.

**Exodus 20:4**

*<sup>4</sup> Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

So many people are deceived and are on the broad way that leads to eternal destruction. They may be very sincere, but they are sincerely wrong. There is only ONE Way to heaven, and it is through Jesus Christ and God will accept nothing else no matter what people believe. All sin MUST be paid for by a blood Sacrifice and without THE Sacrifice there is no forgiveness.

**Hebrews 9:22**

*<sup>22</sup> And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

The word "remission" means "forgiveness or pardon from sins." If a person is not washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, it makes no difference how sincere they are, they will go to hell if they die in their sins. God has made a way for every single individual to be forgiven.

**1 John 2:1-2**

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

***<sup>2</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.***

Notice the words of Whitcomb and Zeller:

*"Philosophical pluralism is the belief that all views in society are equally valid. No one can claim that his ideas or beliefs are superior to another's. No one can declare another religion to be false. If there are no absolutes, then one viewpoint is as valid as another, and there is no objective standard by which to judge any human opinions. Pluralism preaches tolerance for everyone, with the exception that there is little or no tolerance for those who hold to absolute truth. They are the ones who are often mercilessly attacked. The tolerance of pluralism is now known as political correctness. Christians, who uphold the politically incorrect notion that some things are right, and others are wrong are increasingly despised in society. Pluralists have no tolerance for people who express any kind of dogmatism, and yet pluralists themselves can be extremely dogmatic about their politically correct views. What should the believer's response be to all this? Christian truth demands that falsehood be rejected, and error be exposed. In these days of relativistic confusion, God's people need to lovingly but firmly proclaim the truth of the gospel, even as Peter did so boldly here in Acts chapter 4."*

**Conclusion:**

**Matthew 9:36-38**

<sup>36</sup> *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

<sup>37</sup> *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*

<sup>38</sup> *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*