

"WHAT SHALL WE DO TO THESE MEN?"

ACTS 4:13-22

Introduction:

- A. Peter and John have been brought before the council for, "investigation"
 - 1) Vs. 7....."By what Power, by what name?"
 - 2) Vs. 9....."By what means"

- B. Peter and John defended themselves, "boldly"
 - 1) Vs. 10, 11, 12 (this is the boldness of Vs. 13)
 - 2) They were not intimidated by authority
 - 3) These are "men" but men "full" of the Holy Spirit

I. The Boldness of Peter and John Vs. 13

- A. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled;"
 - 1) "boldness" = parresia = "the speaking of all one thinks. Freedom or frankness of speaking", "fearless candour"
 - 2) "perceived" = katalabomenoi = "to grasp, to get hold of with the mind"
 - 3) "unlearned" = agrammatos = "unable to write", Here it means the lack of rabbinic training.
 - 4) "ignorant" = idiotes = (idiot) "unskilled", "one who is not an expert", "a commoner"
 - 5) "marvelled" = thaumazo = "to recognize", "to realize", "insight"

- B. "and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus"
 - 1) "knowledge" = epigiuousko = "to notice attentively", "to know full well"
 - 2) "and now they realized that these men had been the companions of Jesus"

II. The Undeniable Evidence Vs. 14

- A. "And beholding the man which was healed standing with them,"
 - 1) "beholding" = blepo = "the act of seeing"

- 2) "healed" = therapeuo = "to treat medically"
- 3) "standing" = "stand fast", This man was "standing fast" at their side!

B. "they could say nothing against it"

- 1) "they could find no effective reply"
- 2) such a state never lasts long!

III. The Conferring of the Council Vs. 15-18

A. The exclusion of the accused Vs. 15

- 1) "commanded" = keleuo = "to order"
- 2) "conferred" = sumballo = "to strike or come together, as streams",
"consult together"

B. The dilemma of the confused Vs. 16

- 1) "what shall we do to these men?"
- 2) They had found them guilty!
- 3) "notable" = gnostos = "known of all"
- 4) "miracle" = semeion = "a sign" "the signs by which Christ or His
followers might be identified"
- 5) "manifest" = thaneros = "apparent", "visible"
- 6) "deny" = arneomai = "to disown", "to say no"

C. An instance of "damage control" Vs. 17

- 1) "spread" = dianemo = "to divide into portions", "to distribute"
- 2) "threaten" = apeileo = "threaten with a threat"

D. The command of the council Vs. 18

- 1) "commanded" = paraggello = "give orders"
- 2) "speak" = phtheggomai = "to emit sound"
- 3) "at all" = katholou = "at all"
- 4) "teach" = didasko = "to give instruction or direction", "to teach"

IV. The Reply of Peter and John Vs. 19-20

A. "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" Vs. 19

- 1) "answered" = apokrinomai = "to give a judicial answer", "to answer a charge"
- 2) "right" = dikaios = "just", "as it should be"
- 3) "sight" = enopion = "in the sight or the presence of"
- 4) "Judge ye" = krino = "come to a decision"

B. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" Vs. 20

- 1) "we cannot possibly give up speaking"
- 2) "seen" = eidon = "to see", implies perception
- 3) "heard" = akouo = "to hear", "perception"
- 4) "ears to hear and eyes to see"

V. The Action of Religious Cowards Vs. 21-22

A. The acts of a cowardly council

- 1) "further threaten = prosapeileo = "in addition to the previous threats" = "repeated the caution"
- 2) "they let them go" = "released them"

B. Why did they let them go? Vs. 21

- 1) They could find no cause for punishment
- 2) They feared, "the people"
- 3) The people, "glorified God"
- 4) The age of the man Vs. 22
- 5) "Punish" = kolazo = "to curtail", "dock", "prune", "to keep within check"

VI. The Question We Face Today

A. Our position is one of reversal

- 1) Everyone is speaking in the name of Jesus!
- 2) The Pope, the homosexuals, the politicians, the famous, the infamous
- 3) His name is spoken everywhere!

B. We must speak the truth about Jesus!

- 1) It is not that they have not heard His name but His name has been joined every kind of shady deed and sinful act.
- 2) We must "live down", the image the world has presented