

Introduction:

Based on **Acts 4.13-22** There is an age-old question as one watches a dog chase a car, “What is he to do with it once he catches it? I think of this question as I read our text for this lesson, the Jewish leaders have their opportunity to crush out this small group of people who were following after Jesus. It also pertains to us as we read about Jesus and His will.

I) They Realized these men had been with Jesus

Acts 4:13 *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

A) They had spent three years with Jesus

1. Learning from the “Master Teacher” their Rabbi.
2. They got to see the miracles; turning water into wine, **John 2.7**; walking on water, **Matthew 14.22-33**; the various healings, feeding thousands of people with a few loaves of bread and a few fish, **Matthew 14.13-21**.
3. They heard Jesus teaching from the sermon on the Mount to the last week.
 - a. He taught as one having authority. **Matthew 7:28** *And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*
 - b. He answered the “hard questions” as He was being tested.

Matthew 19:3 *The Pharisees also came to Him,*

testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"

Matthew 22:35-36 *Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"*

4. They had also made their mistakes, not understanding the deeper meaning of Jesus' teaching.
 - a. The leaven of the Pharisees meaning the teaching and hypocrisy of the Pharisees.
 - b. Peter after making the good confession immediately rebuke Jesus.

Matthew 16:21 *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

5. They were not perfect men but they had been with Jesus.

B) They were uneducated and untrained.

1. Not in the schools of man. They were not students of Gamaliel as was Paul.

Acts 22:3 *"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught*

according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

2. But they had been educated and trained by Jesus. (School of experience)
3. As common Jews they would have been knowledgeable of the scriptures. These were not totally ignorant men as some ran their own business (fishermen), one was a tax collector ***(Matthew 10.3)***
4. They also had perfect remembrance of Jesus' words.

John 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

C) They had been with Jesus

1. They understood the power of God's word.
2. Jesus is identified as the "Word" .

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

3. They had seen the power of the word of God to convict and convert.

John 16:8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

II) The Council's Problem

Acts 4:14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with

them, they could say nothing against it. 15 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, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

A) A miracle had been performed.

1. Everyone knew about it.
2. More importantly they knew about it.

B) What do you do when the uncomfortable truth stares you in the face?

Acts 4:17 "But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak 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.

1. Often people will try to deny the truth. "That's the way you see it", or, "there are other ways of looking at that subject."
2. Procrastinate, put off decision making.
3. Get angry and stop listening, threaten.
4. Obey the truth.

III) They Had Been With Jesus.

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. **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 no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. **22** For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been

performed.

A) The Apostles spoke boldly and plainly.

1. They did not water down the message or sugar coat it, **v.20**
2. Had no intention of being quiet and stop preaching.
3. They were not intimidated or afraid as they had been as Jesus' trial or immediately after.

B) They had the miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 4:8 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:*

1. They had the right message and they knew it.
2. They were confident. ***Hebrews 6:9*** *beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.*

C) They spoke about Jesus.

1. They spoke about His death, burial, and resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:3 *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

2. They spoke about His power; at the right hand of God, calling Him Lord.

3. They spoke of salvation in His name.

Acts 4:12 *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

IV) Do People Know We Have Been with Jesus?

A) Are we bold and confident in proclaiming the Gospel.

1. I don't mean rash and obnoxious but are we confident in God's word?

1 Corinthians 2:1 *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

2. Do we know what we know?

B) Are we knowledgeable in God's word.

1. We are not called to be scholars but disciples, students of Christ.
2. Do we spend time reading, thinking, and doing.

James 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

C) Do we talk about Jesus? I don't mean on some superficial level but actually about His will.

1. What Jesus says when we discourage? When we have a problem with anger, or hatred, or family problems.
2. Talking about His authority and judgment.

Conclusion:

Have you been with Jesus? Have you obeyed His word? Hear, believe, confess, repent, baptized, live faithfully. If so, you will be with Him in eternity. **2 Timothy 4:8** *Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*