

Introduction: There is not a time break between *chapters 3* and *4*. Going back to *chapter 3*; Peter and John go to the temple at the hour of prayer, **3.1**; they see a lame man at the Beautiful gate and heal him, **3.6**; this creates a commotion, **3.7-11**; Peter preaches "the second Gospel sermon", **3.12-25**; **verse 26** *To you first, God, having raised up His Servant, Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away everyone of you from your iniquities."*

I) PARTIES INVOLVED

- A. **THE PEOPLE**- Average Jews who were present.
- B. **The Priests** - worked in the temple on an assigned basis, one week at a time.
- C. **captain of the temple** - about 400, Roman soldiers, to keep the peace.
- D. **The Sadducees** - had control of the temple.
 - 1. Did not believe in the resurrection- of course Peter in the first Gospel sermon in **Acts 2** preached of Jesus no longer being in the grave but at the right hand of God.
 - 2. The High Priest was a Sadducee. **Acts 5.17**
 - 3. **Luke 3.2** mentions both Annas and Caiaphas.
- E. **The Pharisees** - the strict legalists.
 - 1. Jesus challenged them on their religious doctrine (**Luke 12.1**)- traditions of men, self-serving, wanting prominence and power.
- F. **The Sanhedrin**- governing Jewish body.

1. Their "office" was near by.
2. This was the same group who had condemned Jesus less than two months earlier.

II) Results of the miracle

- A. Some were angered by Peter's sermon.
- B. Some heard, believed, and were baptized-5,000
- C. Day of Pentecost 3,000 obeyed, now 5,000, making 8,000 Christians.
- D. This "sect" was not going away.

III) The Trial (Acts could be called "The Book of Trials")

- A. Think of the trials in Acts.
 1. **Acts 5.22ff** apostles arrested and threatened.
 2. **Acts 7** Stephen's testimony.
 3. **Acts 19** the assembly at Ephesus.
 4. **Acts 21.37** through **Acts 22**.
 5. **Acts 24** Paul before the Sanhedrin
 6. Paul before Felix (**Acts 24**), Agrippa (**Acts 25**)
- B. What charge could they bring on Peter and John?
 1. Earlier charges against Jesus included breaking the Sabbath, Blasphemy, eating with sinners.
 2. Many times, in Acts, arrest was made without charges.
- C. **Acts 4.7** By what power or by what name have you done this?
 1. They already had their answer, **3.6, 26**.

- D. They stumbled into a good question. Basically, the same questioned they asked of Jesus. **Mark 11.28.**
- E. Are you charging us for doing a good deed? Healing a lame man at the temple.
 - 1. Are you charging us for a miracle?
 - a. Earlier the leaders charged Jesus with performing a miracle by the power of Beelzebub. **Matthew 12:24** *Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."*
 - b. **Matthew 12:27** *"And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges."*
 - c. Would be an acknowledgement of a miracle being done.
 - d. It was also done in the name of Jesus, **3.6.**

IV) Peter's response, Acts 4.8-12.

- A. It was an inspired response, by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Jesus had foretold of this happening. **Luke 12:11** *"Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. **12** "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."*
 - 2. Peter points to the man who had been healed.
 - a. By the name of the one they had crucified; the one now raised from the dead.

b. By His name this man is made well.

B. Jesus is the Chief cornerstone, *Acts 4.11*.

1. The foundation of their preaching and His church.
2. They examined the cornerstone and threw it away.
 - a. Jesus applied this to the Jewish nation. ***Matthew 21.42***.
 - b. Peter applied this to those who reject the Gospel, ***1 Peter 2.6-8***.

V) Application

- A. Opposition often comes with success.
 1. These trials gave the Apostles the opportunity to preach to a different group of people.
- B. Keep the message focused on Jesus.
- C. Salvation is found in the power of Jesus alone.
 1. Salvation is not found in any other religion.
 2. It is not found in any other authority.
- D. Since Jesus is the authority, we must be saved by His conditions.
 1. His conditions are non-negotiable.
 2. His conditions are simple, ***Mark 16.16***
 3. His conditions are doable.

Conclusion:

In truth, Peter was not on trial but they were. Later we will see their response.