

Recap of 5/2/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 4:1-22):

1. Just weeks before the event recounted in Acts 4, Peter was cowering in fear in the High Priest's courtyard, denying he was a disciple of Jesus. What made the difference? His courage and the courage of the other disciples was born of his confidence in the truth of the resurrection and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
2. "Acts is a record of power in the midst of persecution, of life and health pouring from a living Christ into a sick society through the channel of obscure men and women very much like you and me." (Stedman)
3. Peter and John are brought before the Sanhedrin for preaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In their response they acknowledge that the lame man was healed in the name (the power) of Jesus whom they crucified, but God raised from the dead. They quote Psalm 118:22 to show that the Old Testament predicted the rejection of the Messiah.
4. They then taught that salvation could be found only in Jesus Christ. He is the only Savior available to mankind (Acts 4:12).
5. "Peter and the other apostles never watered down the fact that apart from Jesus there is no salvation for anyone." (Longenecker)
6. Of the boldness and courage of Peter, Barclay writes: "When we read Peter's speech, and remember to whom it was spoken, we recognize one of the world's great demonstrations of courage. It was spoken to an audience of the wealthiest, the most intellectual and the most powerful in the land, and yet Peter, the Gallilean fisherman, stands before them rather as their judge than as their victim. Further, this was the very court which had condemned Jesus to death. Peter knew he was taking his life in his hands." (Barclay)
7. Despite the miracle, which they could not deny, they reject the truth. **"...miracles alone can never convict or convert the lost sinner. Only the Word of God can do that (see John 11:45-53; Acts 14:1-20)." (Wiersbe)**
8. The Sanhedrin order Peter and John to not preach in the name of Jesus. Their response is to acknowledge that they were committed to God's will for them and no human authority could negate that. The principle is that when any authority (religious or civil) orders a born again believer to disobey the Word of God, we must obey God. (More on this later).