

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for April 11, 2010

Peter in Prison
Acts 4:1-12

1. The arrest of Peter by the Jewish leaders (4:1-4)

- a. The interruption (4:1)
- b. The intimidation (4:2)

Peter and John were opposed for their role in teaching the people and for the content of their teaching.

- c. The incarceration (4:3)

Unlike the trial of Jesus, the leaders followed the law and did not begin the trial at night.

- d. The increase (4:4)

The five thousand men included the three thousand who believed after Peter's first message (Acts 2:47). The followers of Christ had become numerous enough to threaten the religious leaders.

2. The appearance of Peter before the Jewish leaders (4:5-7)

- a. The opposition

Jesus had stood before the same people in the same location a few months earlier.

Seven distinct groups came together to oppose Peter and John:

Caiaphas was the technical high priest, but his father-in-law, Annas, held the power and was the de facto high priest.

- b. The inquisition

This was a fulfillment of Jesus' prediction in Mark 13:9-11.

The question they posed emphasized the word "you" for the purpose of scorn.

They did not ask what occurred but how it occurred. Peter and John were set up to associate themselves with Christ.

3. The address of Peter to the Jewish leaders (4:8-12)

- a. The power of the Spirit (4:8)

If we yield ourselves to Christ, we will be empowered to do God's will.

- b. The perfect story (4:9)

The healed man was present (Acts 4:14).

- c. The plan for speaking (4:10)

- d. The pointed statement (4:10)

- e. The predicted Stone (4:11)

Psalm 118:22 was also used by Jesus (Matthew 21:42) and by Peter (1 Peter 2:7) to show the will of God (cf. Psalm 118:23). Peter added the words "by you" to highlight the guilt of the leaders.

- f. The provision for salvation (4:12)

Jesus is the only way that we can be saved (John 14:6), and people must first hear about Jesus (Romans 10:13-15).

May we yield our lives to the Lord so that God's Spirit will use us to communicate the truth of Christ to unbelievers.