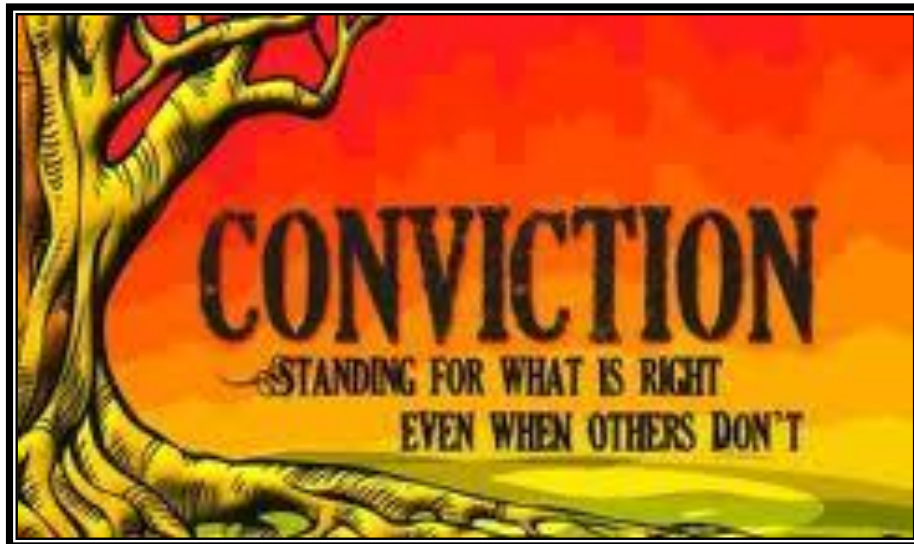

Bible Study

Acts Chapter 4

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Contents

Introduction	3
Author of the Book of Acts:	3
Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin	3
The Believers Pray	6
The Believers Share Their Possessions.....	7
Conclusion.....	7
QUIZ: What did we learn?.....	9

Introduction

Beloved, you may be asking yourself, with all of the various books in the bible, why KKMinistry chose Acts 4 as its first published bible study. I feel like I was lead by God to do a study on this chapter because this chapter talks specifically about the conviction of the Christian to speak and do what thus said the Lord, which is so important today because there is an apparent effort to silence and/or eradicate God and His Word.

It is my hope that we can learn from these scriptures and obtain some of the courage and boldness exemplified by the two apostles from which this story and lesson was written. Note that they confound the men who tried to silence them and even those men knew that Peter and John were not acting solely under their own authority and power.

Author of the Book of Acts:

Authorship of the book of Acts is attributed to Luke. He was a Greek and the only Gentile Christian writer of the New Testament. He was an educated man, and we learn in Colossians 4:14 that he was a physician. Luke was not one of the 12 disciples.

Although Luke is not named in the book of Acts as the writer, he was credited with authorship as early as the second century. In later chapters of Acts, the writer uses the first-person plural narrative, "we," indicating that he was present with Paul. We know that Luke was a faithful friend and travel companion of Paul.

<< Acts 4 >>

New International Version ([pick another version](#))

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin



1The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. **2**They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. **3**They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. **4**But many who heard the message

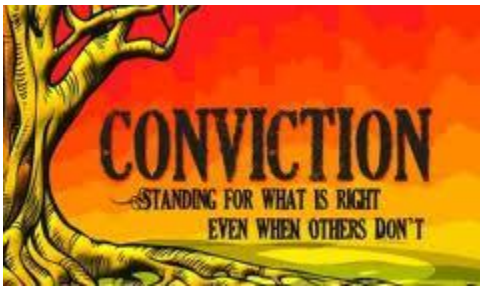
believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

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NOTE: PETER AND JOHN WERE EFFECTIVELY SPREADING THE GOSPEL AND CAUSING PEOPLE TO BELIEVE, SO THEY WERE THROWN IN JAIL.

5The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. **6**Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. **7**They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

NOTE: THE MANNER IS WHICH THE QUESTION WAS ASKED. IT WAS ASK IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT APPEARS THAT THE INQUISITOR OR THE PERSON ASKING THE QUESTION BELIEVED THAT THE HEALING WAS DONE VIA SOME KIND OF POWER OR IN SOMEONE'S NAME. OTHERWISE THE QUESTION WOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED MORE VAGUELY. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW DID YOU DO THIS OR DID YOU DO THIS USING SOME TYPE OF POWER.



8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! **9**If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10**then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead,

that this man stands before you healed. **11**Jesus is

" 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'"^a

12Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

13When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

NOTE: THE SADDUCEES KNEW THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR PETER AND JOHN TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH THIS TYPE OF COURAGE, KNOWLEDGE AND ELOQUENCE, BECAUSE THEY WERE UNSCHOOLED. THEREFORE, THEY HAD TO BE UNDER THE POWER AND/OR AUTHORITY OF SOME SUPER NATURAL SOURCE.

14But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. **15**So they ordered them to withdraw from the

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Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

NOTE: BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTED WHAT PETER AND JOHN SPOKE OF, THE SADDUCCEES WERE LEFT WITHOUT AN ARGUMENT OR REBUTTLE.

16“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. **17**But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

NOTE: OBVIOUSLY THESE MEN WERE DETERMINED TO HIDE A TRUTH, A NOTABLE SIGN AND EVIDENCE OF THE POWER OF JESUS THE CHRIST, WHICH THEY ADMIT THEMSELVES WAS UNDENIABLE.

18Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19**But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! **20**As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

21After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. **22**For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

NOTE: THEY LET THEM GO ONLY BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT FIGURE OUT HOW TO PUNISH THEM WITHOUT GETTING THEMSELVES IN TROUBLE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE PRAISING THE GOD WHOSE NAME PETER AND JOHN WAS SENT IN.

The Believers Pray

23On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. **24**When they heard this, they **(MEANING THE PEOPLE)** raised their voices together in prayer to God. **“Sovereign Lord,”** they said, **“you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25**You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

**“ ‘Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
26**The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.’^{b c}



27Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. **28**They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

NOTE: WHAT DID HEROD AND PONTIUS PILATE, THE GENTILES AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DO? THEY DID WHAT GOD DECIDED BEFORE HAND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

GOD KNOWS THE BEGINNING AND THE END. HE KNOWS THE HEARTS OF MEN AND HE KNEW WHAT ACTIONS AND DECISIONS THEY WOULD MAKE BECAUSE OF THERE LOVE OF SELF AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF HIM; HIM BEING GOD.

29Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with

great boldness. **30**Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”**31**After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

The Believers Share Their Possessions

32All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. **33**With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all **34**that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales **35**and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

NOTE: THE SCRIPTURES SAID THAT POSSESSIONS WERE SOLD TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDY AND THERE WERE NO NEEDY PERSON AMONG THEM. THIS IS A VERY DIFFERENT PICTURE FROM WHAT WE ARE SEEING IN THE CHURCHES OF AMERICA TODAY.

36Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), **37**sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Conclusion

Peter and John, two educated men anointed with the Holy Spirit stood before their adversaries with power and great courage testified to the power and miraculous wonders of the Lord despite the threats of men. They feared and respected God more than they did earthly men. As a matter of fact, Peter and John said in verse 19 that they could not help but speak about what they have seen and heard. What an awesome place to be in the Lord. A place where you naturally speak about God. Your love for Him and the things that he has done for you naturally comes out in your conversations. I think this is a place that we all need to get. If anyone talks to us for more than 5 or 10 minutes; especially regarding matters that are non-professional or business oriented, our Lord and Savior should come up in the conversation naturally. In fact, the more we grow closer to Him it should become more difficult to not bring Him up in conversations

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than it is to speak about Him.

I would like to end this awesome and powerful bible study by referencing scriptures 29 and 30 from above in the Believers Prayer. Please read these scriptures and pray this prayer with me for the Father to give both you, me and anyone else who God directs to come into contact with this bible study that which is being asked for in this prayer:

29Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. **30**Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Amen!

QUIZ: What did we learn?

1. Who wrote the book of Acts?
2. Who are the main characters in this bible study?
 - a. Peter
 - b. John
 - c. The Sadducees
 - d. All of the above
3. The Sadducees didn't believe Peter and John told the truth about the healing Jesus did?
True _____ False _____
4. The Sadducees denied or disputed the healing miracle? True _____ False _____
5. Peter and John could not help but speak about Jesus and what he did?
True _____ False _____
6. Why did the Sadducees let Peter and John go?
7. Why did Herod, Pilate and others meet?
8. Peter and John prayed with the people asking the Lord to enable His servants to speak boldly about God? True _____ False _____
9. The believers share their possessions but there were still people in need?
True _____ False _____
10. Peter and John spoke about God and His Son boldly and with conviction and we should also? True _____ False _____

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Thank you for taking the time to study God's word with me.

God bless and Shalom.

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