



JUNE 13, 2021

22004 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall CA 91321
661-259-2913 | info@placeritachurch.com
Listen to sermon audio at www.placeritachurch.com

Christian Persecution

Acts 4:1-12

I. Arrested for Preaching the Resurrection (vv. 1-4)

- A. The _____ (v. 1) [Acts 5:17; 23:8]
- B. The _____ (v. 2) [1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:42-44]
- C. The _____ (vv. 3-4) [Lk. 21:12; Rom. 10:14-15]

II. Accused of Having No Authority (vv. 5-7)

- A. The _____ of the authorities (vv. 5-6)
[Jn. 18:13, 28-31; Acts 5:21; 6:12; 7:54; 9:14; 22:5; Matt. 23:1-5]
- B. The _____ of authority (v. 7)
[Matt. 21:23; Acts 3:16]

III. Affirmed the Power and Exclusivity of Jesus (vv. 8-12)

- A. Be _____ with the Holy Spirit (v. 8)
[Acts 2:4; 13:9; Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16]
- B. Make a _____ and simple argument (v. 9)
[Acts 3:7-8; 1 Pet. 4:12-13]
- C. Proclaim _____ through Jesus Christ (vv. 10-12)
[Rom. 1:16; Acts 17:30; Matt. 2:23; Psa. 118:22; Mk. 12:10-11;
Eph. 2:20-21; Jn. 14:6]

TAKE HOME

- How will you ***respond*** in the midst of opposition and annoyance the world has toward the exclusive message of the cross?
- What will you do when the world tells you that you have ***no*** authority to critique their views?
- How can you be sure you are ***filled*** with the Holy Spirit when you proclaim that Jesus is the only way to heaven?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placeritachurch.com.

1. Have you ever been persecuted for your faith? What did that look like? How would that compare with the examples given in this sermon? (Matt. 5:11; 1 Pet. 4:15-16)

2. Read Acts 4:1-2. Why were the Jews greatly annoyed? Why do unbelievers become greatly annoyed with the Christian faith today? (1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:42-44)

3. Read Acts 4:3-4. Why were Peter and John arrested? Have you ever thought about how you would react if you were arrested for your faith? (Lk. 21:12; Rom. 10:14-15)

4. Read Acts 4:5-7. What were Peter and John accused of? Why is this question of authority such a big deal? (Matt. 21:23; Acts 3:16)

5. Read Acts 4:8-9. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? What impact should this have on one’s life? What was Peter’s plain and simple argument? (Acts 2:4; 13:9; Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16; Acts 3:7-8; 1 Pet. 4:12-13)

6. Read Acts 4:10-12. What was the stone that the builders rejected? What is this talking about? Why is the exclusivity of Christ and the gospel foundational to the Christian faith? (Rom. 1:16; Acts 17:30; Matt. 2:23; Psa. 118:22; Mk. 12:10-11; Eph. 2:20-21; Jn. 14:6)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? Why? How will you live differently this week based on what you have learned from this passage?

“Not the name of Confucius, Buddha, or Allah, not the name of many or any of God’s choicest saints. Not the name of Abraham or Moses. Only in the name of Jesus is salvation to be found.”

- John Philipps, *Exploring Acts, An Expository Commentary*