

Bible Workshop:

Acts of the Apostles 4

Outline

- vv. 1-4 Peter and John are arrested
- vv. 5-12 Trial before the Sanhedrin
- vv. 13-22 Peter and John are released after the authorities threaten
- vv. 23-31 Joyous and triumphant return to the believers
- vv. 32-37 Unity of thought and action

Discussion points

- 1** Why would the three groups mentioned be so incensed that the apostles preached the resurrection (vv. 1,2)?
 - 2** Do you think the number given in verse 4 includes the number in Acts 2:41, or is this an addition?
 - 3** All the assembled authorities demand an answer (v. 7). Where have we seen this in the ministry of our Lord? What was the result?
 - 4** Peter quotes from the Psalms in verse 11. Look at this psalm and see the other New Testament allusions. What other echoes come to mind about stones?
 - 5** Do you think the impotent man who was healed was arrested with the apostles (v. 14)?
 - 6** What specifically do you think the apostles reported to their fellow believers (v. 23)? Why?
 - 7** What is the difference between signs and wonders (v. 30)? Where else have we seen these exhibited in the early chapters of Acts?
 - 8** What do you think it means when the believers are again filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 31)?
 - 9** What is meant by “great grace was upon them all” (v. 33)? Marginal references help.
 - 10** Do you think the apostles had appointed another treasurer after the death of Judas (v. 37)?
- 2** Look at the quotation Peter makes from the Psalms in verses 25,26. Look at the whole psalm to see the other fulfilments contained there.
 - 3** What other ways is “consolation” translated in the New Testament (v. 36)? Do you think this reflects Barnabas’ character? Why?

Tasks

- 1** The authorities are impressed with the boldness of the apostles (v. 13). Look up the Greek words for “unlearned and ignorant” to see their estimation of the apostles. To what do they attribute their abilities?
- 2** Notice the exclusivity of the gospel message (v. 12). Find other times in the Acts where the importance of the “name” is brought out. Expand this to the rest of the New Testament.
- 3** Find the other occasions when the foreknowledge of God has been cited in the Acts (v. 28). Expand this to the rest of the New Testament.

Information

The unity, generosity and selflessness of the believers at the end of this chapter is soon to be shattered. This is a severe test for communal living, and it is well to note how the infant ecclesia reacts.

Take-home point

The stubborn rejections by the authorities of the evidence clearly shown is contrasted with the apostles’ faith as witnessed in verse 20. May our lives mirror the same commitment.

David Lawrence

Details

- 1** How much time has elapsed since the impotent man was healed (v. 5)? Do you think the preaching continued after Peter and John were arrested?

Comments are welcome and will be considered for publication. Please send them to the Publishing Editor, Brother Eric Marshall, address inside front cover.