

*Daily Devotional for Jan. 10-16, 2021*

Acts 4:1-22: The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 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, 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. Jesus is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

When 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.

But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

"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. 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." Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

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But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." After 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. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

Sunday, Jan. 10

What questions do you have from the sermon?

Did you receive any insights?

### *Can I get a witness?*

With whom did you share some good news this week? Spend some time praying for that person or persons.

With whom would you like to share some good news next week? Spend some time praying for an opportunity and open hearts.

*Journal Musings*

Monday, Jan. 11

Read Acts 4:1-22 out loud. What words or phrases catch your attention?

Did you notice anything different from yesterday?

Tuesday, Jan. 12

The religious leaders knew Peter and John were 'unschooled, ordinary men.' Wondering how they could witness the way they did, 'they took note that these men had been with Jesus.'

What does this truth mean for you in your life?

Has 'being with Jesus' made a difference for you this week? Explain your response.

*God in Plain Sight(ings)*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Saturday, Jan. 16

What insight did you receive from spending the week in this text?

What truth of the message has been most impactful?

Wednesday, Jan. 13

When told to stop speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus, Peter and John declare: 'We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'

Share a time in your life in which you had to speak to another about your experience.

What was the response?

Thursday, Jan. 14

If you were in the place of Peter and John, what might you have said or done? Why?

Friday, Jan. 15

Spend some time thinking, praying and writing what you would say if someone asked you, 'by what power or what name' do you live and act?