

# Acts 4

Peter and John before the Sanhedrin

**4** 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. **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.

**5** The 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?'

**8** Then 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.”<sup>[a]</sup>

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



<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. <sup>16</sup> '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. <sup>17</sup> 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.'

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

<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For the man who was miraculously healed was over



The believers pray

<sup>23</sup> On 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. <sup>24</sup> When they heard this, they 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. <sup>25</sup> 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?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth rise up  
and the rulers band together  
against the Lord  
and against his anointed one.

<sup>27</sup> Indeed 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. <sup>28</sup> They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.'

- <sup>31</sup> 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.



# Key Points

## Know What:

- In our current series we are looking at the life of Peter after Jesus ascended to heaven. Last week we looked at Peter and the Roman leader, Cornelius and saw that the Christian gospel was for the whole world.
- Today we step back to the time when Peter and John healed a lame man at the Temple Gate.
- The Jewish leaders were furious because the healing threatened their authority. They arrested Peter and John and threw them in prison.
- Peter and John were brought before the Jewish Council. Peter boldly stated that Jesus, whom they had crucified and God had raised from the dead, had healed the man.
- The authorities were astonished at the boldness and eloquence of Peter and John and recognised that they had been with Jesus. They were in a bind: they wanted to stop them preaching but the whole city knew a miracle had happened.
- So they told Peter and John to stop preaching about Jesus, but they said that they must obey God rather than men.
- When Peter and John were released they reported to the Christians what had happened; they praised God and asked for power to speak the truth with great boldness and miracles to accompany it.
- The Holy Spirit fell on the place and filled them all.



# Key Points (2)

## So What:

- Jesus calls us as his disciples to follow him in the power of the Holy Spirit no matter what the cost. This includes speaking the truth boldly and praying for healing.
- We shall face opposition from people who want to keep us quiet. When that happens we should continue to speak the truth boldly without compromise. Like Peter our first priority must be to obey God rather than men.
- We are not alone. We are part of God's family who will encourage, support, counsel, praise and pray with us.
- As we seek God, he will continue to fill us with His Holy Spirit to continue to share the Good News of Jesus.



# Key Points (3)

## Now What:

- Let us renew our commitment to Jesus to follow him whatever the cost.
- When we face opposition let us consciously seek the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and speak the truth with boldness.
- Let us make sure we are strongly connected with other Christians with whom we are praying and sharing or lives.
- Let us invite the Holy Spirit to fill us afresh with power today and every day.



# Key verses

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus

<sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, 'Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'

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

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# Welcome

- Welcome to this informal service to celebrate the good news about Jesus. Please relax, enjoy and rejoice that Jesus is alive and has sent his Holy Spirit.
- Today we particularly welcome John Goodman, our new vicar.
- Foundation, Ignite and Roots may leave when told but everyone is welcome to stay throughout.
- Refreshments in the hall at 10:30.



# I'm gonna jump up and down

I'm gonna jump up and down,  
Gonna spin right around,  
Gonna praise your name forever.  
Gonna shout out loud,  
Gonna deafen the crowd,  
Gonna send my praise to heaven.



I will run this race and I will never stop.  
I'll follow Jesus till the day I drop.  
I can do all things through Christ  
who strengthens me.



When you've got such a lot  
When you've got not a lot  
What?  
Be happy!



I'm gonna jump up and down,  
Gonna spin right around,  
Gonna praise your name forever.  
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# Big Family of God

Some of us are big and tall

Some of us are very small

Some of us like pink and some like blue

Some of us like reading books

Some of us like feeding ducks

That's because we're different,

me and you....



But God loves everyone he's  
made

God loves each of us in a  
special way



That's you and you and you and you  
And you and you and you and you  
God loves you, God loves you  
That's you and you and you and you  
And you and you and you and you  
We're part of the big family of God



Some of us have curly hair  
Some of us have specs to wear  
All of us have different families  
Some of us are very loud  
Some of us don't make a sound  
That's because we're different,  
you and me.....



But God loves everyone he's  
made

God loves each of us in a  
special way



That's you and you and you and you  
And you and you and you and you  
God loves you, God loves you  
That's you and you and you and you  
And you and you and you and you  
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# Scene Setter (John)

- Including quick overview of story (more detail later in both Foundation and 9:31)
- something



# Prayer of repentance



# Over all the earth

Over all the earth  
You reign on high  
Every mountain stream  
Every sunset sky  
But my one request  
Lord my only aim  
Is that you'd reign in me again



Lord reign in me  
Reign in Your power  
Over all my dreams  
In my darkest hour  
You are the Lord of all I am  
So won't you reign in me again



Over every thought  
Over every word  
May my life reflect  
the beauty of my Lord  
Cause you mean more to me  
than any earthly thing  
So won't You reign in me again



Lord reign in me  
Reign in Your power  
Over all my dreams  
In my darkest hour  
You are the Lord of all I am  
So won't you reign in me again



# Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' hope and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name



Christ alone  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong  
In the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord  
Lord of all



When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on his unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil



Christ alone  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong  
In the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord  
Lord of all



When he shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless I stand before the throne



Christ alone  
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Weak made strong  
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# Acts 4

## Peter and John before the Sanhedrin

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**5** The 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?'

**8** Then 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

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<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.



## The believers pray

<sup>23</sup> On 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. <sup>24</sup> When they heard this, they 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. <sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

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and the peoples plot in vain?

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# Living Boldly in the Power of the Holy Spirit

- Last week we looked at Peter and Cornelius: the Christian gospel is for the whole world.
- Today we see the aftermath of Peter and John healing a lame man at the Temple Gate.
- The Jewish leaders were furious because the healing threatened their authority. They arrested Peter and John and threw them in prison.
- Peter and John were brought before the Jewish Council. Peter boldly stated that Jesus, whom they had crucified and God had raised from the dead, had healed the man.
- The authorities were astonished at the boldness and eloquence of Peter and John and recognised that they had been with Jesus. They were in a bind: they wanted to stop them preaching but the whole city knew a miracle had happened.
- They told Peter and John to stop preaching about Jesus, but they said that they must obey God rather than men.
- When Peter and John were released they reported to the Christians what had happened; they praised God and asked for power to speak the truth with great boldness and miracles to accompany it.
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# What does this mean for us?

- Jesus calls us as his disciples to follow him in the power of the Holy Spirit no matter what the cost. This includes speaking the truth boldly and praying for healing.
- We shall face opposition from people who want to keep us quiet. When that happens we should continue to speak the truth boldly without compromise. Like Peter our first priority must be to obey God rather than men.
- We are not alone. We are part of God's family who will encourage, support, counsel, praise and pray with us.
- As we seek God, he will continue to fill us with His Holy Spirit to continue to share the Good News of Jesus.



# Right now

- Let us renew our commitment to Jesus to follow him whatever the cost.
- When we face opposition let us consciously seek the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and speak the truth with boldness.
- Let us make sure we are strongly connected with other Christians with whom we are praying and sharing our lives.
- Let us invite the Holy Spirit to fill us afresh with power today and every day.



# Prayers – a ‘Collect’



# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.



Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

Amen.



# And Can it Be That I Should Gain

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood!  
Died he for me? who caused his pain!  
For me? who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?



'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!  
Who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
let angel minds inquire no more.



He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!



Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.



No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;  
alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.



# Now:

- Refreshments in the hall

# Next week:

- The 9.31, Ignite and Roots.
- Foundation in the hall



# The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, for evermore,  
Amen



# Be Bold, Be Strong

Be bold, be strong  
For the Lord your God is with you.  
Be bold, be strong,  
For the Lord your God is with you.



I am not afraid,  
I am not dismayed,  
Because I'm walking in faith and  
victory,  
Come on and walk in faith and  
victory,  
For the Lord your God is with you.



Be bold, be strong  
For the Lord your God is with you.  
Be bold, be strong,  
For the Lord your God is with you.



I am not afraid,  
I am not dismayed,  
Because I'm walking in faith and  
victory,  
Come on and walk in faith and  
victory,  
For the Lord your God is with you.



# Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found,  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.



Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come.

'Twas grace that brought me safe this far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there a thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
Than when we first begun.

