

CHAPTER FOUR Acts 4

Behold Their Threatening's

Overview

1. Peter, John, and the Religious Council: (Verses 1-23)

Peter and John were brought before the religious council for preaching to the crowds. The council wants to put a stop to the message Peter and John are preaching. They are offended by the disciples preaching to the people without first asking their permission, since they were the religious leaders of Jerusalem. The council was frustrated because many people believed the message being preached and the lame man stood before them as evidence of the truth of that message. Peter and John were held overnight to be questioned the next day. Peter, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit preaches a salvation message to the council. Observing their boldness, the council recognized that Peter and John had been with Jesus. They could not deny the miracle of the lame man, who stood before them and they feared the people. They finally released Peter and John threatening them not to speak about Jesus, but they responded to the council that they must obey God. Upon their release, Peter and John went to the local church to report everything the chief priests and elders had said to them.

2. Believers in One Accord: (Verses 24-33)

In response to the report of persecution, the believers lift their voice to God in unity and release the outcome of the threats against them to the Lord. They acknowledge the guarantee of their deliverance is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They then pray for boldness to speak the Word of God and for signs and wonders to follow the preaching of the Word.

3. Possessions Pooled: (Verses 34-37)

Many of these first believers sold their land or homes so distribution could be made toward those in need, especially the widows. This giving was strictly voluntary on the part of the people. No one coerced them to do so.

The Challenge of Chapter Four:

The Word of God instructs us to obey those in authority over us, including government officials, as long as our obedience does not violate the Word of God. Peter and John

were instructed to no longer preach the gospel, but Jesus commanded us as believers to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Most of us will never experience the persecution the early disciples faced, but if we were ever in a situation similar to theirs, God would fill our mouths with an answer. God can accomplish much through the unity of believers. When we give willingly to the Lord and walk in unity, favor will be upon our lives and many will be supernaturally ministered to.