

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

Stand and Be Delivered in the Name of Jesus

Acts 4:13-31

Stand Upright

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." ¹⁸ So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." ²¹ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²² For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

Stand Boldly

²³ And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together
Against the LORD and against His Christ.'

²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

1. How did the apostles/early church handle persecution?
 - a. To whom did they submit to? The Sanhedrin, God, or both?
 - b. To whom were they obedient to? The Sanhedrin, God, or both?
 - c. Whom did they fear? The Sanhedrin, God, or both?
 - d. What were their consequences/blessings by the way they responded to the Sanhedrin?
 - e. What did they accomplish?
2. How did they pray, and what did they pray for?
3. How did God answer their prayers?
4. The man that was once lame had a strong testimony of how Jesus changed him which cannot be refuted. Reflect on your testimony. Are you still the same person, or is it apparent to others that you have been changed by Jesus that you can now walk upright with joy, declaring the works of the Lord in your life?