

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 8: The Cost of Following Christ

READ Acts 4:1-22 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

It didn't take long for opposition to come upon the early church. A compassionate act in Jesus' name by Peter and John towards a lame beggar in the temple becomes the grounds for hostility and threat by the Sanhedrin. E. K. Maltby was right when he said, "Jesus promised His disciples three things: that they would be absurdly happy; that they would be completely fearless; and, that they would be in constant trouble." Such is the blessing and the cost for all those who would follow Jesus.

Big idea: God uses persecution as an opportunity for explaining with bold assurance the identity and the significance of Jesus.

Questions:

1. How do you explain the miraculous response to Peter's preaching (v. 4)? See John 14:12; 16:6-11.
2. What does Luke mean when he described Peter as being "filled with the Holy Spirit" (v. 8) as he boldly addressed the powerful Sanhedrin? See Luke 12:11-12.
3. Do you think there is a difference between being baptised with the Holy Spirit (1:5) and being filled with the Holy Spirit (4:8)? If so, explain.
4. What was the main issue that upset the Sadducees in Peter's preaching (v. 2)? What did the Sadducees believe? See Mark 12:18; Luke 20:27.

5. Why is belief in the death and resurrection of Christ so vital to our faith (vv. 8-10)?
6. How do you answer the challenge, "Won't a sincere, good person who has never heard of Jesus go to heaven?"? Why must we insist on Jesus being the only way of salvation (v. 12)?
7. How did the Sanhedrin's reaction to Peter's message (vv. 16-17, 21) differ from the reaction of the crowd in 2:37? How do you account for this? How central is God's Word for saving someone? See Luke 16:27-31.
8. How did the Sanhedrin account for the boldness of Peter and John (v. 13)? What do we practically learn from this as we live for, serve, and speak of Christ?
9. Why do you think the warnings and threats of the Sanhedrin had no impact on the disciples?
10. How can we know how bold to be in our witness to unbelievers, inside and outside our family? Is it better to err on the side of caution or boldness?

STOP AND PRAY:

Adore: God for the simplicity, clarity, and power in the gospel message

Confess: your fears in not boldly sharing your faith when opportunities come

Pray: that you might prioritise daily times alone with Jesus in prayer and the Word