

The Week in the Word

Acts Worksheet #8a: The Opposition to the Message Begins

Passage: Acts 4:1-31

Sermon Dates: Feb. 1-2

Study Period: (Jan. 20-26)

Link Group Meetings: (Jan. 27-31)

Peter had just been used by God to perform an amazing miracle and to preach a powerful message to his fellow Israelites. A disabled man, who was completely dependent upon society, has been made well, and is able to become a contributing citizen. But instead of expressing gratitude to Peter and to the Lord, the religious leaders become upset. They seem to see Peter's message as a personal threat, so they arrest Peter and John, hoping to put a stop to the message.

1. What has disturbed the religious leaders, that caused them to arrest Peter and John? (4:1-2)

2. What were the results of Peter's message that would worry the leaders? (4:4)

3. What question did the high priest and his family ask? Were they looking for information, or were they trying to intimidate the disciples? Explain. (4:5-7)

4. What help did Peter receive as he gave an answer to the council? (4:8) How does this fit with what Luke wrote in his former book? (Luke 12:11-12)

-
5. Read v.8-12. Who does Peter address, and what counter-accusation does he make against his accusers?
-
6. What seems to be the main thing Peter wants them to know? (4:12)
-
7. What is it that astonishes the leaders? (4:13)
-
8. What prevented the leaders from being able to say anything in response to Peter? (4:14-16)
-
9. What were the leaders afraid of? Why do you think they are reacting like this? (4:18)
-
10. What do we learn here about “civil disobedience” (4:19-20)? Does this contradict what we read in Romans 13:1? When is it okay to disobey? When is it not okay?