

## Week 6—Acts 4:1-22

Begin each day of your study by asking the LORD to speak to you through His Word.

### Day 1

1. Read Acts 4:1-22. What happens in these verses and how is it connected to 3:1-26?
2. What did Jesus promise His disciples in situations like this in Luke 12:11-12 and 21:12-19? How might these promises still apply to us today? Have you ever had an experience like this? If so, when?
3. Read Mark 14:43-72. What changes do you notice in Peter and John (John is believed to be the one being described in vv. 51-52) in Acts 4 from those verses in Mark? What do you attribute this to? How might this inspire you?

### Day 2

1. Read Acts 4:1-7. Why do you think the religious leaders are so disturbed in this passage? What are the similarities and differences that cause people to be disturbed by the claims of Christianity today in our culture?

**The rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law...**—These three groups composed the *Sanhedrin*, which was the high council that governed Jewish affairs, including the interpretation of Jewish Scriptures and oral laws. While they were at odds over many things, including the possibility of a bodily resurrection, they were in agreement that Jesus and His followers had to be stopped. It was this group that ultimately condemned Jesus to death (cf. Matthew 26:57-67).

2. What does John 11:45-53 reveal about this group's motivations? What could be some other motivations a person might have for denying Christ?

3. What does v. 4 suggest to you about how the gospel is spread (hint: this is a *major* theme in the book of Acts)? What might this mean for you personally? How do you feel about that?

### Day 3

1. Read Acts 4:7-17. In this passage, do the Jewish leaders "believe" the man was healed? What is the difference between *believing* in Jesus and *receiving* Him as Lord (see James 2:19!)?

2. What can keep a person from accepting Jesus today even when they can't refute the evidence? How can these barriers be overcome?

3. What question do they ask Peter and John in v. 7? Why would they ask about the name? What do you know about the importance of names in the Bible? Tomorrow we will spend more time on this.

## Day 4

1. Read Acts 4:8-17. What name does Peter proclaim healed this man? What does the name *Jesus* mean? What does Peter claim about this Jesus (vv. 8-12)?

**Name**—Names in the Bible are extremely important as they speak to a person’s nature or character. The name Jesus means “the LORD saves.” However, for the Jews, the only name by which a person could be saved (v. 12) was YHWH, the name God gives Moses in Exodus 3:15. This identification of Jesus as YHWH (cf. John 8:58, 10:30) and as the only One who could save (cf. John 14:6) was ultimately what condemned Him to death by the Sanhedrin.

**Cornerstone**—Psalm 118:22 might have originally meant that the nations would reject Israel as the key nation in the world that would “be a light unto the Gentiles” and the fulfillment of God’s plan for redemption, but here Peter applies this saying about Israel (or Israel’s king) to Jesus.

2. Read the verses below and describe what these “names” of Jesus tell us about His nature and character:

Isaiah 7:14—

Isaiah 9:6—

John 1:1-4—

John 1:29—

John 10:7—

John 6:32—

John 8:58—

John 10:11—

John 11:25—

John 15:1—

1 Corinthians 10:4—

1 John 2:1—

1 Timothy 2:5—

1 Timothy 6:15—

Revelation 1:8—

Revelation 5:5—

3. Highlight the names/titles that most stood out to you and spend the rest of your time praising Jesus' character and nature!

*Day 5*

1. Read Acts 4:18-22. According to the verses below, *when* and *why* should believers submit to human authorities?

Luke 20:20-26—

Romans 13:1-6—

1 Peter 2:11-17—

2. According to v. 19, under what circumstances must followers of Jesus disobey human authorities? Name a situation today when this might happen in your life.

3. Even in their unwillingness to compromise their obedience to Christ, what do you notice about Peter and John's behavior and attitude before the authorities in this passage? How could this be an example for us in this divided country?

### *Conclusion*

1. What most stood out to you as you studied Acts 4:1-22 this week? *Why* do you think this was the case?

2. What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to *do* as a result of this? Be prepared to share with your group!