

# Acts 4:5-31

## External Opposition to Our Faith in Christ is Inevitable

### Memory Aid for the 28 Chapters of the Book of Acts

#### “JESUS IS ALIVE AS HEAD OF HIS BRIDE”

**J**esus Ascends to Heaven

**E**stablishment of the NT Church

**S**alvation of a Lame Beggar

**U**nleashing of Persecution

**S**in in the Church

**I**mpact of Devoted Deacons

**S**tephen Stoned to Death

### Verses 5-7

#### The Leaders of Institutional Judaism Ask Peter/John a Direct Question

“By what power or in what name, have you done this (the miracle of Chapter 3)?”

### Verses 8-12

#### Peter Gives a Direct Doctrinal/Factual Answer Presenting Jesus as the Jewish Messiah Based on Old Testament Scripture v8-12

“...by the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, Who you crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He (Jesus) is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone. There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under Heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

## **Verses 13-18**

### **The Leaders First Go Into Executive Session and Then Summon Peter/John and Warn Them to Stop Speaking in Jesus' Name v13-18**

“...they commanded them (Peter and John) not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.”

## **Verses 19-20**

### **Peter (Respectfully) Places God's Will > Government Decree v19-20**

In effect Peter says...we must obey God > man (see 5:28-29)

## **Verses 21-22**

### **The Leaders Reluctantly Release Peter/John**

“...they let them go, finding no (legal) basis on which to punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened.”

## **Verses 23-30**

### **Rather Than Panic, the Church Prays about/for This New Status Quo**

They apply the principle underlying Psalm 2 (direct human opposition to God/Christ and God's program until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ)

## **Verse 31**

### **The Immediate Aftermath: The Believers in the Church of Jerusalem Were Spiritually Encouraged /Empowered**

The believers at JBF were “...filled with (controlled by) the Holy Spirit and began to speak the Word of God with boldness (despite the threat of persecution).”

## **Take This To Heart**

**External Opposition to Our Faith in Christ is Inevitable  
But Panic is Optional (and Definitely Not Recommended)**