

*“The Church’s 1<sup>st</sup> Collision!”*

**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Here we find the 1<sup>st</sup> collision of **the church & the world**.
  - 1.1.1. This was the beginning of the **official persecution** of Christians.
  - 1.1.2. So far it’s been that of general **acceptance & favor**.
  - 1.1.3. It was **the officials** who are about to turn against them. [Primarily/Sadducees]
  - 1.1.4. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> of 10 persecutions directed against Christianity during the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 centuries.
    - 1.1.4.1. In one way or another, the Christian Church has suffered persecution ever since.
    - 1.1.4.2. I hope before service you take a moment to pray for our **persecuted brothers & sisters** you see on the Power Point.

**2. THE CHURCH’S 1<sup>ST</sup> COLLISION! (1-22)**

- 2.1. **GOING TO JAIL FOR DOING GOOD!** (1-4)
- 2.2. (1) Peter’s sermon on the temple mount was **suddenly interrupted**.
  - 2.2.1. It’s getting close to nightfall now (3:1 said 3pm).
- 2.3. (1b) It was an **official group**: **priests; the temple guard; & the Sadducees**.
  - 2.3.1. The Sadducees had vested interest here (didn’t believe in the Res)
- 2.4. (2) **Greatly disturbed that they taught the people** – Christianity always brings teaching **directly** to the people! (i.e. it doesn’t have to go through a intermediary)
- 2.5. (3) Arrested & placed in jail overnight.
  - 2.5.1. **What exactly was the cause of arrest?** – **Resurrection** teaching.
  - 2.5.2. **It was a collision between the new faith & the old.**
- 2.6. (4) Isn’t it great that even though Peter & John are being dragged off to jail, we still have many getting saved. (not fearful of the persecution)
  - 2.6.1. **Here is the progress report on the spread of the gospel.**
  - 2.6.2. **Note:** 5000 men (so at least 15,000+ w/women & children).
  - 2.6.3. **Persecution always makes for growth.**
- 2.7. **Illustration:** When the **Emperor Valens** threatened **Eusebius** with confiscation of all his goods, torture, banishment, or even death, the courageous Christian replied, “He needs **not fear confiscation**, who has nothing to lose; **nor banishment**, to whom heaven is his country; **nor torments**, when his body can be destroyed at one blow; **nor death**, which is the only way to set him at liberty from sin and sorrow.”

- 2.8. **THE INTERROGATION!** (5-12)
- 2.9. (5-7) Ordered to appear before the Sanhedrin (highest Jewish council; 71 members, made up of both the main Jewish parties)
- 2.9.1. Probably in as much trouble for his **message** in the temple as his **healing** the lame man.
- 2.10. (7) **What power? What name?**
- 2.10.1. **Note:** This is **admission** of existence of “**power**” & “**name**”.
- 2.11. (8) Peter answers them in the power of the H.S.
- 2.11.1. This is a **fresh filling** of the Holy Spirit.
- 2.11.2. Peter probably remembered his Masters promise, “**Now when they bring you to the synagogues & magistrates & authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say, But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.**”<sup>1</sup>
- 2.12. (8b) Notice a very **respectful** salutation. Yet, **boldness** as he implies it’s a very strange reason for their inquiry, did they disapprove of “*good deeds*”? (9)
- 2.13. (10) **The power & name? ... Jesus Christ of Nazareth!**
- 2.13.1. Peter also accused the Sanhedrin of responsibility for **rejecting & killing** Christ.
- 2.13.2. He also *proclaimed* **God’s power** in **raising** Jesus from the dead.
- 2.14. **What verbal & visible** evidence did Peter offer in their defense?
- 2.14.1. **Verbal** – The name of **Jesus**; & the power of **God**.
- 2.14.2. **Visible** – The **man** standing before them.
- 2.15. (11) He uses **their own scriptures** to point to his message.
- 2.15.1. I wonder if any of the members of the Sanhedrin remember this was the same Psalm Jesus used (& applied to Himself) only a few months earlier
- 2.16. (12) **Salvation** – Needed by **all**; Offered to **many**; Supplied by **One!**<sup>2</sup>
- 2.17. **We must be saved** - Jesus is the only person by whom **we** (both individually and collectively) **must** (there is no alternative) **be saved** (from eternal destruction and God’s fury due us for our sins).
- 2.18. **The Great Necessity** – **we must be saved.**<sup>3</sup>
- 2.18.1. **Why must we be saved?**
- 2.18.2. We are **lost**(sheep); We are **helpless**(coin); We are **hopeless**(prodigal son)

<sup>1</sup> Luke 12:11-13.

<sup>2</sup> Griffith Thomas; pg.86

<sup>3</sup> Griffith Thomas; pg.89,90

- 2.19. **The Great Possibility** – **salvation**.
- 2.19.1. What are its characteristics?
- 2.19.2. Pardon for **past**(son); Power for **present**(coin); Peace for **future**(sheep).
- 2.20. **The Great Provision** – **Name**.
- 2.20.1. Who has supplied salvation & how?
- 2.20.2. Christ's death for **pardon**; Christ's life for **power**; Christ's presence for **peace**.
- 2.21. **The Great Opportunity** – **under heaven**.
- 2.21.1. Who may receive this salvation?
- 2.21.2. It's **offered** to all; It's **available** for all **peoples**; It's **sufficient** for all.
- 2.22. **The Great Limitation** – **none other**.
- 2.22.1. How is that indicated?
- 2.22.2. Only one **source of information**(Bible); Only one **plea** (the person of Christ); Only one **way**(new birth through grace); Only one **means**(faith in Christ).
- 2.22.3. He is **"The Alone Savior"**!
- 2.23. All the sinner's *good works, prayers, tears, beliefs, ordinances, good resolves & religious professions* will avail him nothing.
- 2.23.1. He must realize that Christ is the **only Door** & the **only Way** into God's *acceptance, forgiveness blessing*; & apart from faith in Christ there is **no salvation!**
- 2.24. **Pause: Good News is for Sharing!** And you need to **Share your faith your way!**
- 2.24.1. Sharing **The faith** is about communicating a body of facts about **God, Sin, and Salvation**.
- 2.24.2. **Sharing your faith** is about sharing **your story, in your style**.
- 2.24.3. God has given each of us unique personalities, yet each of us are supposed to share our faith.
- 2.24.3.1. Let's quickly look at **6 different approaches** to evangelism.  
**Which fits your personality/style?**
- 2.25. **6 Different approaches:** [each is good, not one better than the other]
- 2.26. **[1] Confrontational Style - Example:** Peter (Acts 2 & 4)
- 2.26.1. In conversations you like to approach topics **directly**. No small talk, No beating around the bush.
- 2.26.2. You're **bold, confident**,...just remember to be **tactful**.
- 2.27. **[2] Intellectual Style - Example:** Paul (Acts 17 Athens, a Greek city full of philosophers & deep thinkers)
- 2.27.1. You are very **logical & analytical** as you lay out your case for faith in Christ. You love to **read & be up on** what's being debated in society.
- 2.27.2. You enjoy discussion & debates. You get frustrated w/people who are illogical or have weak arguments.
- 2.28. **[3] Testimonial Style - Example:** Telling your own story (like Blind man in Jn. 9)
- 2.28.1. You often tell personal **stories** to illustrate a point.

- 2.28.2. People are interested in hearing stories about things that have happened in your life.
- 2.28.3. Use your story telling abilities to share the greatest story of all.
- 2.29. **[4] Interpersonal Style - Example:** Matthew (Luke 5, Matthew invites all his unbelieving friends to a party to meet Jesus too)
- 2.29.1. This is a highly relational person, outgoing, and friendly, knows lots of people, makes friends easily & **connects** with them.
- 2.29.2. As you build relationships, share **the source** of your **joy & life & love**.
- 2.30. **[5] Invitational Style - Example:** Samaritan woman (John 4, she met Jesus at well & immediately went to the city & brought back many to meet Jesus)
- 2.30.1. You love to **include** people in activities you're involved in.
- 2.30.2. Sometimes you're more comfortable letting others answer questions, even if you know the answers.
- 2.30.3. Continue to look for opportunities to bring friends to. (watch bulletin)
- 2.31. **[6] Serving Style - Example:** Tabitha/Dorcas (Acts 9:36, she was full of good works & charitable deeds – She **helped people** everywhere, making them **clothes**, huge impact on Joppa because of how she **served**)
- 2.31.1. You see needs in people that others often overlook.
- 2.31.2. You find fulfillment in helping others behind the scenes.
- 2.31.3. You prefer to **show love** through **action** rather than **words**.
- 2.31.4. Look for ways to **ensure** that people understand that **your service** to them is because of your **love for God**.
- 2.32. **Share your faith your way!** – Good News is for sharing!
- 2.33. **THE WARNING!** (13-18)
- 2.34. (13) **Uneducated** – unable to write. [If taken literally “w/o letters”, not knowing the ABC’s]
- 2.34.1. Here it denotes the lack of rabbinic teaching.<sup>4</sup>
- 2.34.2. 😊 But what a “**private education**” they had had! 😊
- 2.35. **Untrained** – [□ διώτης *idiotes*] A layman, one who is not an expert, unskilled, commoner.<sup>5</sup>
- 2.35.1. An unlearned, illiterate man; **as opposed to the learned & educated**.
- 2.35.2. Literally, “**people of the land**,” ordinary folks, **not systematically educated in the Bible and the traditions of either the Pharisees or the Sadducees**.
- 2.35.3. Thus they’d have **low social status**, & **little would be expected of him**.
- 2.35.4. The members of the *Sanhedrin* could easily spot these Galileans by their **up-country accents** as persons unlikely to be delivering religious truth.
- 2.36. **They had been with Jesus** – Evidently an impression had been made upon them!
- 2.36.1. The best understanding of **Christ’s living biography** should be written out in the **words & actions** of His people!

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<sup>4</sup> F.B.Meyer.

<sup>5</sup> Bruce

- 2.36.2. **Illustration:** A **Persian Proverb** says “a lump of clay emitted a beautiful odor, & on being asked for explanation, replied, “I have been near a **rose!**”
- 2.36.3. **Illustration:** On one Sunday morn after service a friend gave me a hug & was wearing **great cologne**. Next person I hugged said, “you smell great!” I said, “**thanks, but that’s not my cologne, I’ve been near so & so**”
- 2.37. **Others realized that they had been with Jesus – Have you been near The Rose?**
- 2.38. (14) The miracle had actually been done.
- 2.38.1. The man wasn’t in prison with them, but here he is standing right by their side during their trial!
- 2.39. (16-18) Although they were unable to deny the **apostolic miracle**, they felt compelled to curtail the **apostolic preaching**.<sup>6</sup>
- 2.39.1. Here was “*the Israeli Supreme court*”, 71 learned, bearded, cold-eyed, scowling rabbis calling in 2 hillbilly fishermen.<sup>7</sup>
- 2.39.2. No one would have thought they’d win this showdown!
- 2.39.3. But...**their bluff** had been called!
- 2.40. **THEIR BLUFF CALLED, THE RELEASE!** (19-22)
- 2.41. (19) **We must obey God, not men** - These verses constitute a solid basis for **civil disobedience**, but no rationalization at all for **illegal behavior** grounded in selfishness.
- 2.42. (20) **We cannot but speak** – can’t help speaking about the things we’ve seen/heard
- 2.42.1. They were so filled with **their message & with the love of Christ** that they could not stop telling people about Him!
- 2.43. John Bunyan after he had been in prison many years simply for preaching the gospel, was promised to be set free if he’d only promise not to preach again.
- 2.43.1. He could have said, “The gospel has not been helpful. It has only brought me & my family harm. I’ve left my wife to fend on her own, & what kind of witness is this for my blind son? I better get out of this place so I can get back to my trade of tinkering(mending pots & pans)”
- 2.43.2. Instead he said, “If you let me out of prison today, I will preach again tomorrow, by the grace of God.” He also bravely told them, “If I lie in jail till the moss grows on my eyelids, I will never conceal the truth which God has taught me.”
- 2.44. (21,22) The council had no alternative but to **threaten & release** them.
- 2.44.1. **What exactly was the cause of their release? – The people.**
- 2.44.2. **Threatening** – that’s all they could do.

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<sup>6</sup> Shepherd’s Notes; pg.16

<sup>7</sup> Peter Wagner; pg.106.

- 2.45. **End:** A Christians 3-fold secret:
- 2.45.1. [1] For **testimony** we must be **filled** with the **Holy Spirit**.
  - 2.45.2. [2] For **character** we must be always **with Jesus**.
  - 2.45.3. [3] For **work** we must do everything “**in the name**” that is, by the **authority** of Jesus Christ.
  - 2.45.4. Thus, Grace can transform *weak, ordinary people* **into** *strong, noble, courageous* **witnesses & workers** for Christ.
- 2.46. A small boy was consistently late coming home from school. His parents warned him that he must be home on time that afternoon, but nevertheless he arrived later than ever. His mother met him at the door and said nothing. His father met him in the living room and said nothing. At dinner that night, the boy looked at his plate. There was a slice of bread and a glass of water. He looked at his father’s full plate and then at his father, but his father remained silent. The boy was crushed. The father waited for the full impact to sink in, **then** quietly took the boy’s plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate of meat and potatoes, put it in front of the boy, and smiled at his son.
- When that boy grew to be a man, he said, “**All my life I’ve known what God is like by what my father did that night.**”
- 2.46.1. God loved you enough to send Christ to die in your place—He did not give you what you **deserved**; He gave you what you **did not deserve**.