Acts 4:1-22

“The Church’s 1st Collision!”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. Here we find the 1st 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 1st of 10 persecutions directed against Christianity during the 1st 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 1ST 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 an 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.”

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?


2.15. (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!

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.

2.18.1. Why must we be saved?

2.18.2. We are lost (sheep); We are helpless (coin); We are hopeless (prodigal son)

---


2 Griffith Thomas; pg.86

3 Griffith Thomas; pg.89,90
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.

2.21.1. 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. 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.

2.34.2. ☹️ But what a “private education” they had had! 😊

2.35. **Untrained** – [διώτης, idiots] A layman, one who is not an expert, unskilled, commoner.

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!

---

4 F.B.Meyer.
5 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**.

2.39.1. Here was “the Israeli Supreme court”, 71 learned, bearded, cold-eyed, scowling rabbis calling in 2 hillbilly fishermen.

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.

---

6 Shepherd’s Notes; pg.16
7 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**.