

No Other Name  
Acts 4:1-22

I. Intro

**A. Summarize chapter 3: Peter and John went to pray, they met a lame man on the way...**

**1. Please note: the miracle was not to bring attention or notoriety to Peter and John**

**2. The miracle was ALL ABOUT JESUS!**

**B. Then Peter preaches Christ crucified and resurrected**

C. That stirs up the opposition

**D. Like fans at a sporting event...we see things through a lens clouded by the team color**

II. Text

A. Verses 1-4

1. Audience: whomever gathered: faithful Jewish followers

2. Authority: captain of the temple:

a) No description in the text of his duties, but he is mentioned to have the power to arrest religious malpractitioners.

b) The Talmud provides the most information about the captain of the temple, but it is still scanty. In the Kodashim, Middoth, ch. I, pp. 1-5, this man, "the officer of the temple mount," is said to be in charge of twenty-four watches, or guard posts, located at important spots about the Temple courtyard. In Tamid, ch. I, pp. 1-12, it is said that this officer, second to the high priest, was in charge of three groups of priests who guarded the Chamber of Abtimas, the Chamber of the Spark, and the Chamber of Fire. In addition he commanded twenty-one groups of Levites who were placed elsewhere, particularly at the five gates.

c) Implication: one of the priests given power to arrest

Difference in Pharisees and Sadducees:

The Pharisees were rabbis who believed the Temple was unnecessary and Torah was the most important aspect of Jewish life. They worshipped in synagogues, interpreted the Torah, and most notably, believed in the importance of oral law (Torah she'bal peh). This group believed that God gave us instructions orally at Mt. Sinai, and those laws were just as important as the laws written in the Torah. The Pharisees were the lower class citizens and lived in the worst conditions in Jerusalem. Finally, the Pharisees didn't really like living under Roman rule. The Pharisees' Judaism is what is practice today, as one can't make sacrifices at the Temple and instead worship in synagogues.

The Sadducees were the wealthy upper class, who were involved with the priesthood. They completely rejected oral law, and unlike the Pharisees, their lives revolved around the Temple. The Sadducees' job was to make sacrifices and maintain the Temple's purity. Although the Sadducees were the most involved with the Temple, they were also the most Hellenized Jews, and respected Greco-Roman civilization and rule.

The Pharisees and Sadducees made up the Sanhedrin, a council of seventy men who made all the decisions for the Jews. The tie-breaker was the high priest, who was called the nasee. In modern Hebrew, nasee means president.

3. Intruders: Priests, Sadducees

a) The Sadducees were the party of high priests, aristocratic families, and merchants—the wealthier elements of the population. They came under the

influence of Hellenism, tended to have good relations with the Roman rulers of Palestine, and generally represented the conservative view within Judaism. While their rivals, the Pharisees, claimed the authority of piety and learning, the Sadducees claimed that of birth and social and economic position. During the long period of the two parties' struggle—which lasted until the Romans' destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE—the Sadducees dominated the Temple and its priesthood.

**b) Super religious, denial of supernatural concepts, strict adherent to the law interpreted through this lens.**

**B. Verses 5-12**

1. **Annas: High Priest (retired sort of), father in law of Caiaphas: believed to be the most powerful Sadducee**
2. **Caiaphas: key player in the execution of Jesus, son in law in the family business**
3. **John and Alexander: unsure exactly who they are**

**C. Verses 13-18**

1. **13-16: Its important to know the worldview of the Sadducees, and the why behind their actions.**
2. **They could not deny the miracle, but they wanted to.**
3. **17-18: They believed they were powerful enough to snuff out the message before it got too well known. ( how did that work out)**

**D. Verses 19-22**

1. **The response of a person of faith...I must obey my Lord, and you are not Him.**
2. **The man was more than 40 years old...**
  - a) **As good as dead??? No, that's not it**
  - b) **They ALL knew him to be what he was.**

**III. Point**

**A. The sign of the message**

1. **Healing...they could not argue, the man was standing there as evidence**
2. **The healing was a good thing, but got in the way of the agenda of the rulers.**
3. **When we show signs of the good that Christ has done in our lives, it is a sign of the good that can come**
4. **Do you need a sign?**
  - a) **Here I am**
  - b) **I was dead in sin, and Christ made me alive.**
  - c) **I have been changed!**

**B. The promise of the message**

1. **The rejected stone is the cornerstone**
2. **What is a corner stone?**
  - a) **In relation to architecture, a cornerstone is traditionally the first stone laid for a structure, with all other stones laid in reference. A cornerstone marks the geographical location by orienting a building in a specific direction.**
  - b) **The cornerstone is the standard that all other parts are measured by.**
  - c) **It is the absolute, unchanging point of contact**
3. **No other name**
  - a) **Jesus is that point of contact**
  - b) **He is completely righteous, and all things are for Him and through Him!**
  - c) **Colossians 1:16: For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities –all things were created through him and for him.**

**C. The problem with the message**

1. **The message of hope in Christ causes some problems with folks, it must be the freedom offered in Christ!**
2. **The Pharisees believed in the concept of the resurrection**
3. **The Sadducees did not believe in the concept of the resurrection**
4. **Neither wanted to believe in Christ's resurrection**
5. **People are still bothered by the RESURRECTION!**
  - a) Keep telling the story
  - b) It is our only Hope!
6. **The Resurrection is provable:**
  - a) Eye witness accounts
  - b) No body has been produced, and it would have been produced, because if there had been a body, all this would go away.
  - c) Prophetically promised, and fulfilled

#### **IV. Close**

- A. Philosophy will not save you**
- B. Religion will not save you**
- C. Honesty will not save you**
- D. Facts will not save you**
- E. Dedication will not save you**
- F. Only Jesus will save you!**