

THE FIRST PERSECUTION AGAINST THE CHURCH

(Acts 4:1-22)

I. THE INFANCY AND THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)

A. A Miracle Performed in the Name of Jesus Christ (3:1-11)

B. The Message Preached about the Name of Jesus Christ (3:12-26)

C. The Apostles Arrested Because of the Name of Jesus Christ (4:1-22)

1. The healing of the lame man, the gathering of the enormous crowd, and Peter's dynamic preaching did _____ go _____ by the religious leaders. (v. 1)
2. The captain of the temple, the priests, and the Sadducees were all _____ that Peter and John preached the _____ Jesus whom they had put to death. (vv. 1-2)
3. Peter and John were _____ and taken into custody, but not before _____ of their listeners had gotten _____ by God's grace. (vv. 3-4)
4. The very next day all of the religious leaders were assembled in Jerusalem for this hearing, and the primary question from them to the apostles was: "By what _____ or by what _____ have you done this?" (vv. 5-7)
5. _____ with the Holy Spirit, Peter _____ addressed the very same wicked men who had _____ accused his Savior just a few months earlier. (vv. 8-9)

6. It is difficult to put into words just how courageous Peter's declaration was: "*let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom _____, whom _____ from the dead, by _____ this man stands here before you whole.*" (v. 10)
7. Peter quoted Psalm 118:22 to build his case that their _____ of the Messiah, "*the chief cornerstone*" had been previously _____ in Scripture. (v. 11)
8. By God's grace, he offered these murderers another opportunity to trust in the only name that saves; the name _____ represented His _____ and His _____. (v. 12)
9. In light of Peter and John's bold preaching, and with the healed man _____ next to them; the Sanhedrin could only _____ them "*that from now on they speak to no man in this _____.*" (vv. 13-18)
10. The _____ of the apostles was an uncompromising _____ of the Sanhedrin's mandate by stating, "*Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot _____ the things which we have seen and heard.*" (vv. 19-20)
11. The release of the apostles occurred after the Sanhedrin had _____ them as they had no _____ basis for punishment or detainment, as well as recognizing that punishing them was not the _____ thing to do with thousands of people glorifying God over the miracle. (vv. 21-22)

* What can you personally apply from this passage today?