

Peter and John Arrested
Lesson #19
Acts 4:1-31

1. Peter's miraculous healing of a man crippled from birth brought huge, curious crowds. Taking the opportunity to speak, Peter gave his second sermon explaining that Jesus of Nazareth was the long awaited Messiah. *"Many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand."* Who did Luke say had a problem with this? (Acts 4:1 & 2)

2. What was their solution to the situation? (Acts 4:3)

The Sanhedrin - Acts 4:5-22

3. The next day, all the leaders met in Jerusalem at the Sanhedrin. Who did Luke say was there? (Acts 4:5 & 6)

Note: The Sanhedrin is the name of the Jewish administrative body, like the U.S. Supreme Court. It consists of 70 members from among the Sadducees and Pharisees plus the High Priest.

4. Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin for questioning. What was the opening question? (Acts 4:7)

5. Peter took the lead and answered for the two of them. How was Peter empowered to speak before these leaders? (Acts 4:8a)

6. Addressing them with respect, Peter said if they, *"are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel."* What were they to know? (Acts 4:10)

7. What else did Peter emphasize? (Acts 4:11)

8. What is a capstone? (Use a dictionary if necessary)

9. What was the message Peter delivered that day to these religious leaders? (Acts 4:12)

10. The courage of Peter (and John) astonished them. Why? (Acts 4:13a)

11. But what did Luke say "*they took note of?*" (Acts 4:13b)

12. What effect did this have on the men of the Sanhedrin? (Acts 4:14)

13. As a result, they ordered Peter and John "*to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and they conferred together.*" (Acts 4:15) How did that discussion go? (Acts 4:16 & 17)

14. "*Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*" (Acts 4:18) What was Peter and John's reply to this command? (Acts 4:19 & 20)

15. Peter and John could identify with the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. What had Jeremiah said after he had been beaten and placed in stocks for speaking the Word of God? (Jeremiah 20:9)

16. How were Peter and John punished for "*speaking in Jesus' name?*" (Acts 4:21)

17. What additional information did Dr. Luke add about the crippled man who had been healed? (Acts 4:22)

The Power of Prayer – Acts 4:23-31

18. After Peter and John were released, where did they go and what did they do there? (Acts 4:23)

19. How do you think these new believers were feeling at this point?

20. Their immediate response was to pray. How did they address God and what do you think they were recognizing about God with this? (Acts 4:24)

21. They also quoted David's Holy Spirit inspired psalm (2:1 & 2), "*Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.*" After the psalm, they expressed their view of how this prophesy had been fulfilled. What was their explanation? (Acts 4:27)

22. Did this conspiracy defeat God's plan for his Anointed One? (Acts 4:28)

23. After acknowledging who God is and recognizing His sovereignty, these new believers brought three urgent requests to God in prayer. What were their requests? (Acts 4:29 & 30)

24. How did God respond to this heartfelt prayer to show that he had heard and answered? (Acts 4:31)