

**Acts 4:1-14 (NIV)**

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. <sup>2</sup>They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup>They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. <sup>4</sup>But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup>They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the

people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”  
<sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

<sup>13</sup>When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup>But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

**Sermon for April 21, 2024:** [www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online](http://www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online)

**KNOW ...** *God and his Word.*

- To fully understand the passage above and aid in our discussion, we need to back up and read/review Acts 3 to see what inciting incident led to Peter and John's imprisonment and questioning above. As Peter and John were headed to the temple for prayer, they encountered a lame man who was begging for money. What did Peter and John offer the lame man and why? Discuss the details of their encounter. What did the lame man do upon receiving Peter's and John's gift? How did the crowd respond to what they saw?
- What actions did the religious leaders take after the happenings in Acts 3? What was the catalyst for these actions? Was their response and treatment of Peter and John reasonable? Why or why not? What rendered the leaders powerless to take further action against Peter and John?
- Peter and John boldly healed in Jesus' name, proclaimed the gospel and called people to repentance. Do you believe they knew the possible outcome of these actions? Why or why not? What or who gave them this boldness?
- Our words and actions have consequences — some good, some bad, some earthly but all eternal. Name the consequences of Peter's and John's words and actions from good to bad, earthly to eternal. Why were Peter and John willing to face imprisonment for healing the lame man?

- Discuss any additional insights, thoughts, questions you may have for Acts 3 or 4:1-14.

**ACT ... responding to & applying what we know.**

- Are you personally aware of “lame man” experiences — one who is dependent on others’ kindness and help, in need of a miracle? Name these experiences. How can your love for God and others practically meet the need for healing in those circumstances?
- In John 21 Jesus had a pointed conversation with Peter after his resurrection that boiled down this: “Do you love me (Jesus)? If you do, you will feed and care for (love) others.” Apparently, as evidenced in Acts 3-4, Peter (and also John) took Jesus’ command to heart.

Take inventory of our world and your sphere of influence. Who needs us to respectfully take notice, engage with them and their needs and in doing so, connect them to Jesus? Discuss some practical ways that “feed my sheep” and “take care of my sheep” might look like.

**BE ... living in light of what we’ve heard, becoming more like Christ.**

I am challenged by Peter’s and John’s actions in Acts 3-4. As Pastor Mark pointed out, their dedication to prayer, respectful treatment and healing of the lame man, giving all that they had to him — *a relationship with Jesus*, — suffering interrogation and imprisonment **gladly**, were, of course, incredible acts of love for another. But ... all of this ultimately conveyed that they were deeply committed to Christ and did what they did “because they loved Jesus.”

Are you (am I) in love with Jesus? Would someone watching our lives know it?

I challenge you to join me this week in **acts of love** for our Lord. SPEND time in prayer and in the Word to know him better and cultivate a deeper love and friendship with him.

LOOK around at others and LISTEN for the Holy Spirit’s leading for how you can express love for someone else — showing them respect, feeding and caring for them, and giving them a relationship with Jesus through your loving actions.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Angela

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