

Christianity On Trial

Acts 4:5-22 | PART THREE

Introduction

- I. The Inquiry (vv5-7)
- II. The Defense (vv8-12)
- III. The Conference (vv13-17)
- IV. The Acquittal (vv18-22)

“let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.” (v10)

“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.” (v11)

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (v12)

This is the universal claim of the gospel: “we *must* be saved.”

All believers everywhere are given two things to continue the work of the living Christ and His gospel:

- 1) the ability to unflinchingly proclaim the Truth of God’s Word;
- 2) the capacity to unwaveringly share the sufferings of Christ in persecution.

And in this way, Jesus remains alive in us, manifesting Himself through us for the sake of His glory!

I. The Conference (vv13-17)

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished.” v13

“they perceived that they were uneducated” Gk *idiotes*; ‘ignorant, rude.’

“they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”

“Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.” Luke 21:14-16

“they were astonished”

“recognized” Gk *epiginosko*; ‘to know fully; to become fully acquainted with.’

Jesus comes alive to those who see Him in us—especially in challenging situations.

Can that be said of us? What would cause someone to think “*they have been with Jesus*”?

1. Boldness in speaking truth even when it indicts and convicts.
2. No fear of man.
3. Submitting to authority even when it puts us in jeopardy.
4. Speaking with wisdom from above.
5. Confident in Christ who calls us to witness Him.

The Key: Close contact with Jesus has a life-transforming effect.

2 Corinthians 3:18

2 Corinthians 3:13

Staring at the Law only makes one a legalist preventing them from seeing the face of Christ and being transformed into His image.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

2 Corinthians 3:15-16

2 Corinthians 4:6

“*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit...*” (v8).

It is the constant, internal, *spiritual* companionship with Christ that is transformational.

This is possible for, even required of, all true believers!

2 Corinthians 5:16

This means we no longer assess people according to what we see physically. We assess them *spiritually*.

Our communion with Jesus, indeed the worship of God itself, is internal, *spiritual*.

Romans 8:5

John 4:16-22

Philippians 3:3

Christ in you at all times allows you at any time unhindered access to all of His virtues and benefits.

“Communion with Christ is the secret of Christlikeness...transformation comes by beholding.”