

The Storm Breaks – Persecution in the Early Church (Acts 4:13-22)

Last week: Peter & John's arrest & response to the Sanhedrin

1. The Arrest of Peter and John (Acts 4: 1- 4)
2. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (4: 5-11)

I. Teaching the People in Jesus' Name (4:13-17)

- Jewish council, same council before whom Jesus stood – struck by:
 - a. The boldness of Peter and John and that they were unlettered men
 - b. By the fact that these men had been with Jesus
- They could say nothing against the healing of the man born lame (v.14)
- Putting Peter & John aside, they conferred with one another what to do
- They could only threaten Peter & John not to speak in Jesus' name
- They were afraid: were losing their influence & power over the people

II. Threatened and Released – Peter & John Stand Firm (4:18-22)

Peter & John respond by refusing to submit to their command

“is it right before God to listen to you more than to God, you judge”

- Jewish leadership were to judge – is it right to disobey God for men?
- This would be to deny the very commission Jesus gave to the apostles

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard”

- Acts 4 – first instance of civil disobedience against ruling authority
- Government is given by God: doesn't have absolute authority (Rom 13)
- Peter understood government's role, have no authority to make us sin