### Acts

## Chapter 4

1Well, as Peter and John were talking to the people, the Chief Priests, the Temple captains, and the SadDucees came up to them, 2and were very annoyed by the fact that [Peter and John] were teaching the people and telling them how Jesus had been resurrected from the dead... 3So they had them arrested and held until the next day (since it was already evening).  
  
4However, many of those who listened to them started believing, and their numbers grew until there were about 5,000 men.  
  
  
  
5Then the next day, a meeting was held in JeruSalem that included the rulers, elders, and scribes, 6along with AnNas the Chief Priest, CaiAphas, John, Alexander, and all the rest of the Chief Priest’s relatives.  
  
7They stood [Peter and John] in their midst and asked them:  
  
 ‘Who authorized you? And who told you that you could do these things?’  
  
8Then Peter (who became filled with Holy Breath) spoke to them, saying:  
  
 ‘Rulers of the people and elders,  
  
 9‘If we’re being questioned here today because [we] did a good deed for a handicapped person, and if we’re being asked who made him well... 10Then you and all the people of IsraEl should know that it was done in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Anointed One… Whom you hung on a pole!  
  
 ‘For God raised him from the dead, and he actually stood next to this man whom you now see here, completely healthy!  
  
 11‘Yes, this is ‘the stone that was rejected’ by you builders, but which has now ‘become the foundation cornerstone’! [reference to Psalm 118:22]  
  
 12‘So, salvation isn’t going to come from anyone else, because there isn’t another name that’s been given to any other man under the sky who can save us!’  
  
13Well, when they saw the confidence of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and common, everyone was amazed… And they started to recognize them, remembering that these men used to be with Jesus.  
  
14However, as they looked at the man who was standing next to them who’d been cured, nobody could come up with anything to say in rebuttal.  
  
15So then they sent them outside of the Jewish High-Court hall as they discussed the matter between themselves.  
  
16And they were saying:  
  
 ‘What will we do with them? For it’s a fact that a sign has come through them!  
  
 ‘And because everyone in JeruSalem saw it, we can’t deny it!  
  
 17‘So, to keep the news about this from being spread among all the people, let’s just threaten them and tell them not to speak to anyone about this name ever again!’  
  
18So then they called them back in and warned them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus anywhere.  
  
19However, Peter and John replied:  
  
 ‘Whether it’s righteous in God’s eyes to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves... 20But we can’t stop talking about the things that we’ve actually seen and heard!’  
  
21So then, after they threatened them a little more, they let them go, because they couldn’t find any reason to punish them.  
  
[Of course, they also chose not to do anything] on account of the people, since they were all praising God over what had happened… 22For the man who was healed was more than 40 years old.  
  
  
  
23Well, after they’d been released, [Peter and John] returned to their [brothers] and reported what the Chief Priests and elders had told them. 24And on hearing this, they all raised their voices to God together and said:  
  
 ‘O our only King… You who made the lands, the skies, the seas, and everything in them... 25Through Your Breath, You had asked through the mouth of our father David (Your servant):  
  
 ‘Why do the nations and all of the peoples  
 Think about things that are worthless?  
 26For, the rulers of their lands and their kings  
 Are against Jehovah and His anointed.’  
 [Psalm 2:1-2]  
  
 27‘Even Herod and Pontius Pilate (these gentiles) have joined with the IsraElites in this city against Your Holy servant Jesus, whom You chose 28to do all the things that Your hands and directions commanded.  
  
 29‘So, O Jehovah,  
  
 ‘Pay attention to their threats, and allow Your slaves to keep on speaking Your Word in full confidence, 30while You stretch out Your hand to do healing and continue to bring signs and omens in the name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.’  
  
31Well, as they were asking God for this, the place where they were meeting started to shake! Then everyone was filled with the Holy Breath and they started speaking the word of God confidently.  
  
32As a result, a huge crowd became believers, and they started sharing everything that they had with a single heart and soul. None of them claimed that anything they owned was their own, for they shared everything… 33And all the while, the Apostles continued to give a powerful testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.  
  
So a great manifestation of loving-kindness came over all of them. 34In fact, nobody could be described as being needy among them, because everyone who owned fields or houses sold them and brought back the money from the things that they sold, 35laying it at the feet of the Apostles. Then everything was distributed among them according to each one’s needs.  
  
36For example, JoSeph, whom the Apostles called BarNabas (which translates as Son of Comfort), a Levite and a native of Cyprus, 37sold a piece of land that he owned and then he brought in the money, laying it at the feet of the Apostles.