

Read Acts 4:1-12

1 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees.

2 These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. **3** They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning.

4 But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of believers now totaled about 5,000 men, not counting women and children.

5 The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem.

6 Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest.

7 They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, **9** are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed?"

10 Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.

11 For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.'

12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Why did the religious leaders confront Peter and John (vv. 1-2)? Because they were preaching that there is a resurrection of the dead and Jesus' resurrection is proof of that. But the Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection of anyone.

What did they do to Peter and John (v. 3)? Threw them in jail. **What did the people do (v. 4)?** They believed what Peter and John were preaching about Jesus. Lots of people were saved.

What happened the next day (vv. 5-7)? (Read vv. 5-7) The religious leaders brought Peter and John before them and asked them who gave them the right to preach about Jesus.

How did Peter respond to the religious leaders (vv. 8-10)? Did you put us in jail because we healed a crippled beggar? Actually, he was healed by Jesus -- the One you crucified but God raised from the dead.

What did Peter tell the Jewish religious leaders (vv. 11-12)? Jesus is referred to in the Old Testament as the Cornerstone which is the most important stone in any building. They had rejected Jesus, the Cornerstone of the church. Believing in Jesus is the only way to be saved and go to heaven.