

Read Acts 4:13-22

13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. **15** So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves.

16 “What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. “We can’t deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it.

17 But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.” **18** So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? **20** We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

21 The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn’t know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God **22** for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been crippled for more than forty years.

Why were the Jewish religious leaders so surprised (v. 13)? Because Peter and John were so unafraid in preaching about Jesus and they were just ordinary men and didn’t have any special schooling.

What did they recognize about Peter and John? They had seen them with Jesus before.

Why couldn’t the leaders argue with Peter and John (v. 14)? Because the crippled beggar they had healed was standing right there beside them.

What did the Jewish religious leaders do next (vv. 15-16)? They put Peter and John out of the room and talked between themselves. The leaders didn’t know what to do with Peter and John.

What could they not deny (v. 16)? That Peter and John had done a miracle. They couldn’t deny it because the healed man was standing right next to them. And everyone in Jerusalem knew about it.

How did they punish Peter and John (vv. 17-18)? They warned them/commanded them to never speak or teach about Jesus ever again.

What did Peter and John say to them (vv. 19-20)? Our God wants us to obey Him and not you. We have to tell everyone about Jesus. It’s so important.

What did the religious leaders do then (v. 21)? They threatened them more, but finally let them go. They were afraid the people might riot if they punished Peter and John because the people loved them.

Why was everyone praising God (v. 21b-22)? Because they had seen a miracle. The crippled beggar was healed and he had been crippled for more than 40 years.