

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 4:1-21 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Qualification

**ACTS 4:1-2**, "And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead." (ESV)

- "Greatly annoyed"
  - "Captain of the temple" = temple police force
  - Sadducee = control temple worship + much of the Jewish legal council (Sanhedrin)
  - Peter and John are arrested here because of their dangerous ideas and teachings. The Sadducees who arrest them don't believe in the afterlife or resurrection at all.

**ACTS 4:13**, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

- These two are not the ones anyone else would have picked
  - His ways are higher
  - 2 Corinthians 10:18, "For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends."



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### Threats

**ACTS 4:21**, "And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened."

- The Sadducees and the temple police can only threaten them because they fear a revolt.
  - But make no mistake, Peter and John are still very much in danger.
  - They use every opportunity to give witness
  - They also make a point of continually referring to Jesus as God

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Thomas Oden, *The African Memory of Mark*, Craig Keener, *Spirit hermeneutics: reading scripture in light of Pentecost*, Randall Price, *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archeology*, *The Holman Bible Atlas*

