

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

## **BOLD (ACTS 4:1–12)**

### **“WHILE THEY WERE SPEAKING”**

Peter and John are continuing their message from Chapter 3.

- A well-known man had been healed by the power of Jesus' name.
- Peter made it clear that it was the same Jesus they had crucified and many had seen resurrected.
- This same Jesus sent a message of forgiveness to those who would follow Him.

### **“THEY WERE ANNOYED”**

Peter had been sharing all day and eventually the religious professionals decided to put an end to it.

- The Sadducees didn't believe in life after death, so the disciples' teaching that Jesus had risen opposed their teaching.
- **These sad guys disbanded around 70 AD. This type of opposition still exists, but so does the truth of the resurrection.**

## **TAKEN INTO CUSTODY**

It seems that some of the same people who arrested Jesus are making a move on Peter and John.

- They had rejected the message of John, the message of Jesus, and now the message of Peter. Each time, they rejected God.
- **Don't miss the amount of patience God has for the world, even with those who persecute His messengers.**

## **THE NEXT DAY**

The leaders who attended Jesus' mock trial now assembled to accuse Peter and John.

- Hearing the truth of who Jesus is and what He had done, over 5,000 believed and became followers of Christ.
- **The “leaders” had power, but the followers had faith, and it was enough to stand up to those in power.**

## **WHAT POWER?**

Those in power questioned Peter and John about where their power came from and who gave them their authority.

- Everyone knew the answer. They were trying to expose the apostles' theology.
- **Ultimately, it was a question of power over culture and reputation. They were in fear of losing their positions.**

## **FILLED AND SPEAKING**

Luke notes that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit before he spoke.

- Peter restated what he had said the day before, but this time, his life was on the line.
- **Without pause, shame, or fear, Peter declared that it was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they crucified and God raised from the dead, that the man was made healthy.**

## **REJECTED STONE**

They completely understood that the one they rejected was now the cornerstone.

- In the Old Testament, God was the rock, and the Messiah would be the stone. Peter had just declared that Jesus was both God and the Messiah.
- **It's simple. Rejecting Jesus means rejecting God, His authority, and His offer of salvation.**

## **THE CORNERSTONE**

Peter concluded by telling the leaders that salvation is found in no one else.

- “There is no other name under Heaven given to people by which we must be saved” (v. 12).
- **Jesus' name speaks to who He is, what He has done, and what He can do. Salvation from sin, death, and Hell is found in Him alone.**
- It was an opportunity for them to accept the truth.

## **THREATS (ACTS 4:13–22)**

### **AMAZED**

After seeing the boldness of Peter and John, the authorities were amazed that these average guys (who shouldn't have had biblical knowledge) spoke with power.

- These Jesus followers had something to do with the real healing of the lame man.
- **Peter and John existed outside the religious power structure, but they were the ones who sought to obey God.**

### **NOTHING TO SAY**

Even when faced with facts and prophetic fulfillment, the authorities were not convinced to recognize Jesus as the one responsible for the healing, nor were they ready to call on His name for salvation.

- **Prejudice and hard-heartedness are difficult to overcome when people refuse to acknowledge truth.**
- **Does this describe us?**

### **STOP THE SPREAD**

The religious leaders couldn't deny that an amazing sign had been seen by many.

- Their primary concern was to stop the spread of this message among the people.
- **They refused to evaluate the evidence because it would compromise their lives.**
- **How often do we turn away from Christ because of what we perceive as loss?**

### **THE THREAT**

Between a rock and a hard place, the authorities chose to threaten Peter, John, and the healed man.

- They were commanded to never speak or teach in the name of Jesus.
- **How easily are Believers silenced? When the message is the truth spoken in love, it should never be silenced.**

### **THE RESPONSE**

The apostles **could not** comply.

- With the memory of Jesus' false trial fresh in their minds, they respectfully shared that they had a responsibility to share the truth, even if the religious leaders ignored the will of God.
- **It's always easier to stand when we are following God's will instead of fighting it.**

### **THE TRUE SIGN**

After trying to threaten them further, the authorities conceded that the evidence of a miraculous healing was hard to deny.

- Do we see our lives as Believers as miraculous? Are we letting others see what God is doing in our lives?
- **We may not feel like Peter and John—but remember that the healed man was there too, as a living testimony of God's saving power. Are we letting people see what we know?**

## **SHAKEN (ACTS 4:23–31)**

### **COMMUNITY PRAYER**

After their release, Peter and John returned to the community of Believers and shared what had happened.

- Their response was to raise “their voices together to God.”
- They began with praise, acknowledging that God is in control of all things (sovereign).
- Then they prayed what appears to be a prayer for deliverance and removal of their enemies.

### **CONTEXT**

It's not a prayer of deliverance because they continued to recognize that God had controlled every step and that what was happening now was still within His will.

- They prayed for boldness to speak the Word of God in the face of opposition.
- They didn't want the opposition to be gone; they wanted to boldly reach the lost.

### **IN AGREEMENT**

They knew God would continue to work through the powerful name of Jesus.

- The desire of the community was to see God work and to be ready to serve Him faithfully.
- Everything that would happen would be from God, through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. All glory was given to God.

- **How hard is it to recognize God's power and give Him all the glory?**

### **SHAKEN, FILLED, AND BOLD**

The remarkable results of authentic prayer are recorded for us to read.

- There was a special manifestation of God's power—they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God boldly.
- **When aligned with God's will, ordinary Believers take opportunities to share the gospel with unbelievers wherever they go. Are we ready to be shaken?**

### **STATUS**

- We all have some kind of status.
- It may be at home, work, or in the community.
- The problem comes when we seek status in our religious community. We hold on to traditions that we've kept so well that we believe it has elevated us to a position of authority over ourselves and others.

### **AUTHORITY**

- A little authority goes a long way.
- Because God gives us agency (free will), we can confuse it with authority.
- Agency means we can follow the wrong things and seek to satisfy ourselves—that doesn't change who's in charge! We may be able to influence, but we cannot change the truth. Are we willing to hear the truth and submit to His authority?

### **BOLDNESS**

- As Believers, we desire boldness.
- **Spiritual boldness may seem difficult in the face of opposition and personal dispositions.**
- **Following Christ means that HE will give us strength to be BOLD. This kind of boldness doesn't mean we're the loudest; it means we're filled with the Holy Spirit of God and speak the truth in love. Are we ready to receive His message for us? Are we ready to share His message with others? Prepare to be shaken!**