



Acts: To the Ends of the Earth

Acts 4:1-22

Introduction

Peter and John are arrested and interrogated

❖ **Acts 4:1-4**

1. The Sadducees

- Anti-Resurrection
- Pro-Roman

2. The continued growth of the church

❖ **Acts 4:5-7**

1. A familiar cast of characters

- ❖ John 15:18-20—*If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*

2. By what Power and by what Name?

- ❖ Matthew 28:18—*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

Peter's Response

❖ **Acts 4:8-12**

1. Oh what a difference the Holy Spirit makes!

- ❖ Luke 22:56—*This man also was with him.*
- ❖ John 13:37—*Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.*

2. Jesus! And NO other!

- ❖ John 14:6—*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

The Sanhedrin's Ruling

❖ **Acts 4:13-18**

1. The Sanhedrin was Astonished



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2. The Sanhedrin was presented with irrefutable evidence

- ❖ John 6:44—*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him*
- ❖ Romans 1:16—*the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*

3. The Sanhedrin ruled against them

A little civil disobedience

❖ Acts 4:19-22

- ❖ Romans 13:1-2—*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.'*
- ❖ 1 Peter 2:13-14—*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God,*
- ❖ Titus 3:1—*Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work*
- ❖ Acts 4:19—*Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge...*

"A thirteen-year-old boy in Washington State was removed from his parents after he complained to school counselors that his parents took him to church too often. His school counselors had encouraged him to call Child Protective Services with his complaint, which led to his subsequent removal and placement in foster care. It was only after the parents agreed to a judge's requirement of less-frequent church attendance that they were able to recover their son.¹"

¹<http://www.parentalrights.org/index.asp?SEC=%7B81C1F260-4A9F-4013-8164-68A360E295A5%7D>