

Christianity On Trial

Acts 4:5-22 | PART FOUR

Introduction

- I. The Inquiry (vv5-7)
- II. The Defense (vv8-12)
- III. The Conference (vv13-17)
- IV. The Acquittal (vv18-22)

III. The Conference (vv13-17)

“they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”

Luke 21:14-15

The Continuation and Succession of Divine *Authority* in the Word of God

First, God is the Supreme Authority over all.

“There is no authority except from God” Romans 13:1

Second, Jesus receives divine authority in what He speaks from the Father.

John 7:15-17; John 12:49; John 14:10

Jesus is recognized as speaking with authority by the things He taught and by the miracles He performed:

Mark 1:21-27

Third, the Holy Spirit receives divine authority in what He teaches from Jesus.

John 16:12-14

Fourth, the apostles receive divine authority to preach the Word of God empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Mark 3:14-15

Fifth, the Church receives divine authority in the Word of God that we proclaim empowered by the Spirit.

“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.” Colossians 2:9-10

1 Thessalonians 2:13

- 1) No laws were broken
- 2) ‘Exhibit A’ was standing there with them
- 3) The apostles were popular with all the people

“it”

There is no more provocative name in all the earth than the name *Jesus*.

IV. The Acquittal (vv18-22)

“We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29

Acts 5:38-39

What the Sanhedrin was requiring, the apostles could not comply with.

Five conditions upon which we could say the same thing as the apostles and mean it:

- 1) we are filled with the Spirit
- 2) we have regularly been with Jesus
- 3) we have consumed a steady diet of His Word
- 4) we fully and unreservedly believe what God says
- 5) we fear God and love Him enough to obey Him

Holy Spirit filled people of God, full of the love of God, and the Word of God, cannot help but speak out.

Jeremiah 20:9; Numbers 22:38

“For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?” Amos 3:7-8

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God by making Christ known.

“this sign of healing”

God’s signature validating His message spoken by the apostles – proof that He is alive and present among the people.