

Acts 4:1-22 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me 30.5.21

Context

- 1] 50 days after Jesus's death and resurrection at Passover, the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples at feast of Pentecost (2:1ff)
- 2] The numbers of believers exploded – 3000 in first day – they had 'generous hearts' and 'enjoyed the favour all the people.' (2:42-47)
- 3] The Healing of the lame man showed that those helplessly excluded from the presence of God were able to enter boldly in Jesus' name (3:1-10)

The arrest (1-4)

1 And as they were speaking to the people,

Nb this was Peter speaking to the crowds in Solomon's porch round the outside of the Temple

the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,

i.e. the priests - the religious

captain of the temple guard (cf 5:24) - the implementers of power High Priest's chief of staff / temple police

the Sadducees – political power

2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Nb denied the miraculous (didn't believe in resurrection (Lk 20:27)) believed Messianic age had started with the Maccabees 150 years before

NB people are annoyed by Jesus' resurrection

3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

Cf Jesus' trial – 'until the next day for it was already evening' (23:66)

Nb Sanhedrin not permitted to meet at night.

4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Cf 3000 received the word (2:41) - only days or weeks earlier?

Nb faith comes by hearing and hearing through the Word of God (Rmns 10:17)

** God cannot be stopped by men**

GRACE Faith comes by Hearing the Word (4)

The inquisition (5-7)

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

Nb Annas senior ex high priest. Caiaphas son-in-law (Jn18:13), reigning high priest ?'John and Alexander, and all who were of the high priestly family'?

Names given shows it was the full 'royal family' i.e. a very serious event

NB the power of men is no match for God

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired,

Cf a fisherman from Buckie being interviewed before full Westminster parliament!

"By what power or by what name did you do this?"

I.e. How did you do it or who enabled you to do it

Cf Name of the Lord (2:21); name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin (2:38) in the name of Jesus ... walk (3:6) ; faith in His name (3:16)

7 Look for this question 'By what power or name is this being done'

Peter's declaration (8-12)

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit,

Cf the day o Pentecost (Acts 2:4)

God enables men by His Spirit

said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

nb acknowledging their authority cf (Rmns 13:1ff)

9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel

Nb everyone – all Israel

that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

i.e. it is His name, power, glory

Give Jesus the glory for all God does in His name

whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead

cf You crucified – God raised (2:23f; 3:13-15)

nb man's sin, 'God's grace

Proclaim Christ crucified and risen

by him, this man is standing before you well.

11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

Nb His rejection by you and exaltation by the Father, fulfils OT.

12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Cf Jesus' because He will save His people from their sins (Mt 1:21)

today, salvation has come to your house (Lk 19:9)

I.e. If you are to be saved, it is Jesus or none other

Nb I am the way, and the truth and the life none come to the Father except through me (Jn 14:6)

Salvation (from hell) is found in Jesus alone

Not if you will live, it is only through Jesus

The leaders response (13-18)

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.

Cf Speak the word of God with boldness (4:31)

Nb 'common' – gk 'idiotai'

Recognised with Jesus – (not from press pictures (!)) cf The way he acts, speaks stands like his Father! – chip off the old block!

Note The Holy Spirit make us bold and able for any task.

14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

Note - the evidence of the genuine work of Jesus is irrefutable

15 But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, 16 saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

Cf no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah (Lk 11:29)

17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." 18 So they called

them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Cf King Canute and the tide!

The result (19-22)

19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Nb we will obey until there is conflict with The will of God and then we will always obey Him

Cf Whoever is not with me is against me (Lk 11:23)

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.

Nb Leaders – impotent

People praised God (not them)

Cf Praising God – angels (Lk 2:13) shepherds (2:20) Samaritan leper (17:15) Believers (Acts 2:47) healed cripple (3:8,9)

Cf Godly people / preaching lead people to focus on Jesus Himself

God is worthy of our praise

God purpose that, in Jesus, the 'drought was over' – His Spirit was given.

22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

Cf 40 – period of trial, testing etc - 40 days (Gen 7:17; Lk 4:2) 40 years in wilderness (Ex 16:35; Nu 14:33)

Nb After the 'drought' – the times of refreshing (3:20) / the Spirit has come

Conclusion

1] Jesus is the only way to avoid hell / attain Heaven

2] with the HS – 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'

(Phil 4:13)

? *Why if facing possible crucifixion, like Jesus, were they so bold and confident?*

Their boldness/confidence came from the Holy Spirit

Summary

As they were speaking, they were arrested but the believers grew to 5000 (1-4)

The next day they were brought before the council and leaders who wanted to know how they healed this man or under whose authority they worked (5-7)

Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, said the healing was in Jesus' name who they had crucified but God had raised from the dead and that salvation was in Him alone (8-12)

The authorities were astonished by their eloquence and authority and the irrefutable presence of the lame man who had been healed. To keep a lid on it they tried to command them not to speak of Jesus (13-18)

Peter and John refused to disobey God. The leaders were helpless as the people praised God for these events – the healing of the man 40+ years old (19-21)

Main Point *'It is only through Jesus that we might be saved from death'.*

Key Verse *'Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved' (12)*