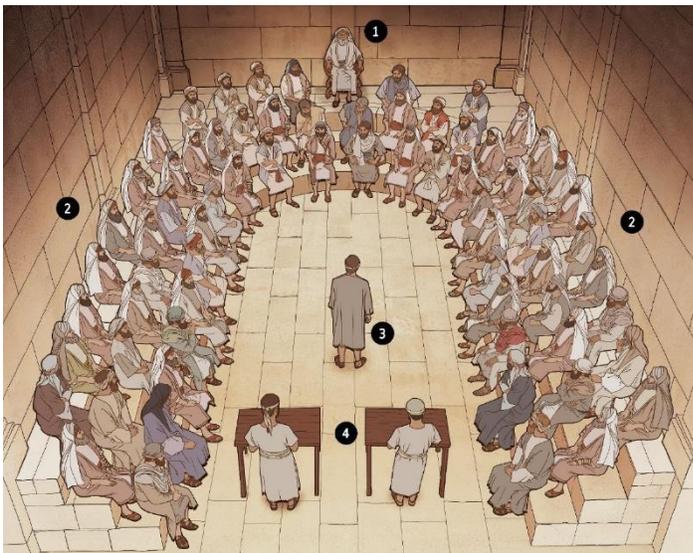


## 7—Jealousy from the Jewish Hierarchy

### Acts 4:1-22

1. Review what just happened on the temple grounds in Acts 3. What occurred which brought about a large crowd? What were the apostles preaching which “*greatly disturbed*” the Jewish leaders (Acts 4:1-2)?
2. Think about how the sermon of Peter in Acts 3 directly indicts the leading Jews. Who does Peter mention in Acts 3:13, 17? What does he tell the crowd to do (Acts 3:19, 26)? Who comes to arrest Peter and John in Acts 4:1-3?
3. What familiar names are listed in Acts 4:5-6 at the council? What role did these individuals play in the Jewish trial of Jesus (John 18:12-14, 24, 28-30)?



4. What was the Sadducees position about the resurrection of the dead (see Matthew 22:22-32)? Why would it have been even more intolerable to hear it preached through Jesus (Acts 4:2)?

5. Notice what time the apostles healed the lame man (Acts 3:1). Now, notice the time at which they were arrested (Acts 4:3). How quickly life can change! Yet, does this unjust persecution

slow down their cause (see Acts 4:4)? Are they actually formally accused or just questioned (see 4:7)?

*Sunday Bible Study (02.14.2021)*

6. What kind of courage would it have taken for Peter and John to stand before a council of rulers who had a direct hand in crucifying Jesus Christ just months earlier? Yet, who do they credit with enabling them to perform this miracle and who is standing with them as a witness (Acts 4:14)? What is Peter trying to point out by using the prophecy from Psalm 118:22 in Acts 4:11?

7. What had Jesus prophesied about His own apostles which is fulfilled in Peter in Matthew 10:19-20? How does Peter handle himself in this speech and what are his basic arguments (Acts 4:8-12)?

8. When Jesus was taken and arrested how would you describe Peter's response to the pressure? Yet, what is clearly noted about Peter and John by the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:13? What must the Sanhedrin admit about this miracle (4:15-16)? Why do you think they met privately to discuss their response (4:15)? What might a lack of transparency indicate?

9. Even so, what do they still try to do so they can keep their power intact and try to silence the apostles and stall the growth of Christianity (Acts 4:17-18)? When we must resort to threats and intimidation rather than open and honest dialogue then what does it often say about our argument?

10. Although Peter and John are intimidated by the Jewish leaders of their day, how do they respond (Acts 4:18-22)? Is it wrong to tell our friends about the bad behavior or false teaching of others (see Acts 4:23)?