

I. THE RESULTS OF THE SERMON

A. Direct Results: God received the Glory

1. Peter was careful to praise only God, took none for himself
 - a. ACTS 3:12 – “why look ye so earnestly on us?”
 - b. He turned their amazement into an opportunity to preach
 - c. It wasn't by OUR power, but HIS alone
2. Thousands of people heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - a. Remember again, the context – right after Pentecost
 - i. 3000 people saved and baptized into church members
 - ii. 16 different regions named
 - iii. ACTS 2:5 – “out of every nation under heaven”
 - iv. This was not a small thing done in a corner
 - b. They all heard the Gospel in their own language
 - c. It was heard around the entire city – everyone knew
3. And don't forget - a lame man could now WALK
 - a. He is often a little left out of his own story
 - b. HE had been lame since birth – never knowing the joy of running
 - c. Now he is walking and standing and leaping and praising God

B. Indirect Results: Religious crowd gets nervous

1. They were not a part of what God was doing and it threatened them
 - a. I'm sure many people who know me call me religious
 - i. It probably is okay to have a “religious” pastor
 - ii. BUT we aren't here for “religion”
 - iii. We are here to celebrate Jesus Christ, to know Him more!
 - b. JAMES 1:27 – “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
 - c. Religion is what man does for God
 - d. Salvation is what He did for man
2. They had things their way, using RELIGION to create and keep power
 - a. Much like the Catholics throughout time have done
 - i. 3 JOHN 1:9 – “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.”
 - ii. This is the attitude of the Nicolaitans
 - iii. REV. 2:15 – “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”
 - b. Do as they say or you cannot go to Heaven
 - i. As if ANY sinful human has ANY say about Salvation!

- ii. Ridiculous! Man can't save himself, so God had to do it
 - iii. And then God turns the administration of over to man?
 - c. MATT. 6:27 – “Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?”
 - 3. Avoid anything that magnifies man and minimizes God
- C. The last result of Peter's sermon, was arrest (vs. 1)
- 1. We know the RESULTS of the Sermon
 - 2. Let's the REASON for the Arrest, the REACTION of the Council
 - 3. The RESPONSE of the Disciples
 - 4. Finally, we'll see that it is all because of the RESURRECTION of the Lord

II. THE REASON FOR THE ARREST

- A. The Jews were troubled
- 1. That is no different than what happens today when Jesus is preached
 - a. Many are afraid to name the name of Jesus Christ
 - b. Many politicians end their prayers with only “amen.”
 - c. Okay to talk of God and Angels on Facebook in general terms
 - i. You'll get a lot of likes! Hashtag “blessed”
 - ii. But you bring in Jesus and the Word of God
 - iii. And then see what happens to your secular friends
 - 2. The same is true with Modernists and Bible Doubters
 - a. They want to make themselves their own authority
 - b. They refuse to accept the BIBLE'S authority over their lives
 - c. If you don't stand fast on the Bible as God's inerrant Word
 - d. Then your “god” is of your own making
 - 3. PHILL. 2:9 – “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”
- B. And people WERE getting Saved (vs. 4)
- 1. 5000 by this time! And that was cutting into the Sanhedrin's powerbase
 - a. Don't be surprised when the world persecutes Christians
 - b. JOHN 15:18 – “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”
 - 2. And this is God's order for Salvation
 - a. ROM. 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - b. EPH. 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
 - c. HEB. 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
 - 3. But that was only part of the reason for the arrest of Peter and John
- C. The real reason is given by the name of those who arrived – Sadducees (vs. 1)
- 1. They were the bureaucrats of the Jewish religious world
 - a. The deep state, if you will

- i. They administered the state domestically
 - ii. They represented the state internationally
 - b. Believed:
 - i. The soul is not immortal; there is no afterlife.
 - ii. There are no rewards or penalties after death.
 - c. And they HATED the doctrine of RESURRECTION!
- 2. They were specifically “grieved” by this teaching (vs. 2)
 - a. They tried to stop Jesus, but they couldn’t – no power
 - b. They thought they could stop Peter and John
- 3. But they didn’t count on God stepping in! (vs. 8)

III. THE REACTION OF THE COUNCIL

- A. They were hauled before the Supreme Court of the land (Sanhedrin)
 - 1. This court had over 71 members
 - 2. The most religious, most educated, and most wealthy of all
 - 3. This is the same court that condemned Jesus to the Cross
- B. They had only one question for them (vs. 7)
 - 1. And they GLADLY told them the name – JESUS
 - 2. ACTS 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
 - 3. BE IT KNOWN (vs. 10) – and this man is the proof!
- C. Look at Peter’s Holy Ghost inspired answer to the Council (vs. 8-12)
 - 1. He had Holy Boldness to speak – FILLED with the Holy Ghost
 - a. All who are Saved are “indwelt” by the Holy Ghost
 - b. Some who are in sin “quench” the Holy Ghost
 - c. But we CAN be “FILLED” with the Holy Ghost!
 - d. We are commanded to!
 - e. EPH. 5:18 – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”
 - 2. He preached the Gospel to his accusers (vs. 10)
 - 3. He declared Jesus to be the Messiah (vs. 11)
 - 4. He presented to them the way of Salvation (vs. 12)
- D. The Sanhedrin didn’t like it, but they couldn’t find a way to argue against it
 - 1. They were speechless before the Holy Spirit Boldness of Peter
 - 2. They were powerless to defeat the fact of the lame man standing
 - 3. They marveled (vs. 13)
 - a. These were not learned men like the council
 - b. Not uneducated (read and write) but no college professors
 - c. Took knowledge – often preached strangely out of context
 - 4. They were not convinced; they were flummoxed and intransigent (vs. 16)
 - 5. They WANTED to deny it but couldn’t

IV. THE RESPONSE OF THE DISCIPLES

- A. The council threatened them, the council ordered them (vs. 17-18)
 - 1. Speak no further among the people (their secret fear)
 - 2. No teaching in the name of Jesus
 - 3. The threat is – we will kill you.
- B. But look at the answer of Peter and John (vs. 19)
 - 1. We can only tell the truth about what we have seen and heard
 - 2. DAN. 3:16 – “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.”
 - 3. Trust God! He will take care of us!
 - a. I hope there is no future pandemic but even if there is
 - b. We will NOT close the doors of this church
 - c. We did not before in COVID and will not in the future
 - 4. Listen to God FIRST
- C. The council was puzzled by this! They couldn't tell them not to listen to God
- D. So, they threatened them again and had to let them go (vs. 21)

V. THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

- A. This is really all about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - 1. I knew a young Catholic man once who got Saved
 - 2. But month after month, he refused to get Baptized
 - 3. Because he knew what that meant – identifying with Christ
 - 4. Rather than the Catholic religion.
- B. What is baptism?
 - 1. A picture that demonstrates the Death, Burial and RESURRECTION
 - 2. We don't serve a dead Savior, but a Living Lord
 - 3. He came from Heaven, did no sin, and died in our place on the Cross
 - a. That WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish
 - b. But HAVE everlasting life
 - 4. And then He rose again, the third day, according to the Scriptures
 - 5. And now He is alive forevermore, sitting on the righthand of the Father
- C. By God's mercy, He has held back His judgement that we deserve
 - 1. And by God's grace, He has made a way of escape for you and me
 - 2. Will you take it today?