

The Church: DEFINED

Study Questions

Week 7

“Look at us...I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” Can you imagine what it must have been like for Peter to speak those words, for the man to leap up(!), and for the crowd to have witnessed it? It’s no wonder so many responded to Peter’s gospel presentation! Who could possibly deny that the name of Jesus was working powerfully? We’re about to see...

MAIN TEXT: Acts 4:1-22

CONNECT & OBSERVE

1. What did you find most significant from Sunday’s sermon?
2. Read the passage in Acts. What questions come to mind as you consider these verses?

LEARN

3. In verses 1-7, we see the religious authorities rally together to ask the question in verse 7. Why was this question so important to these leaders?
4. Look carefully through the phrases that comprise verses 8-12. Why do you think Peter says what he says about Jesus, including the reference in verse 11 to Psalm 118?
5. We get a fascinating inside glimpse at the response of the leaders in verses 13-17. What is their goal or objective, and what are they unable to deny?
6. Compare the response of Peter and John to these leaders in verses 18-22 with the account in Luke 22:54-62. How can we explain these sharp differences?

APPLY

7. Have you ever heard people claim that they would believe in Jesus if only He (or, “God”) showed them a sign? How can this passage help us respond to someone making that kind of claim?

8. The message Peter and John were proclaiming was perceived by the leaders as a threat to their authority, their control, and even their theology (beliefs about God). How does the gospel message about Jesus still do this in our world today?

9. In our culture of "tolerance," one of the most intolerable qualities of Christianity is its exclusive, absolute claim about Jesus. How does the message of verse 12 impact you, and how do you think it impacts our culture?

10. What can we learn from this passage about where boldness and wisdom come from in talking to others about Jesus? Take time to pray together as a group, that you would have (and take) opportunities to talk to others about Jesus.