

# The first trial of Peter and John

## Acts 4:1-22



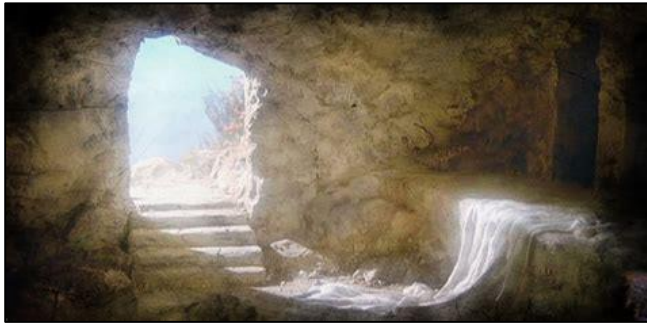
## **These first four verses form the conclusion to chapter 3**

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

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The resurrection and Sadducees do not mix



## Outside business hours!

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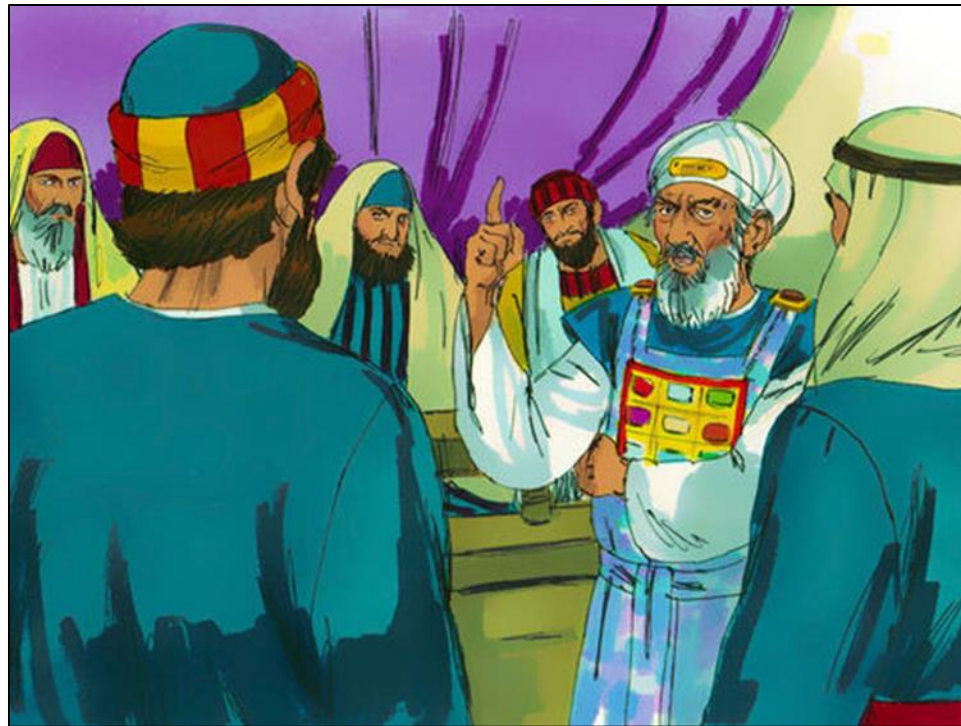


But many who heard the message believed,  
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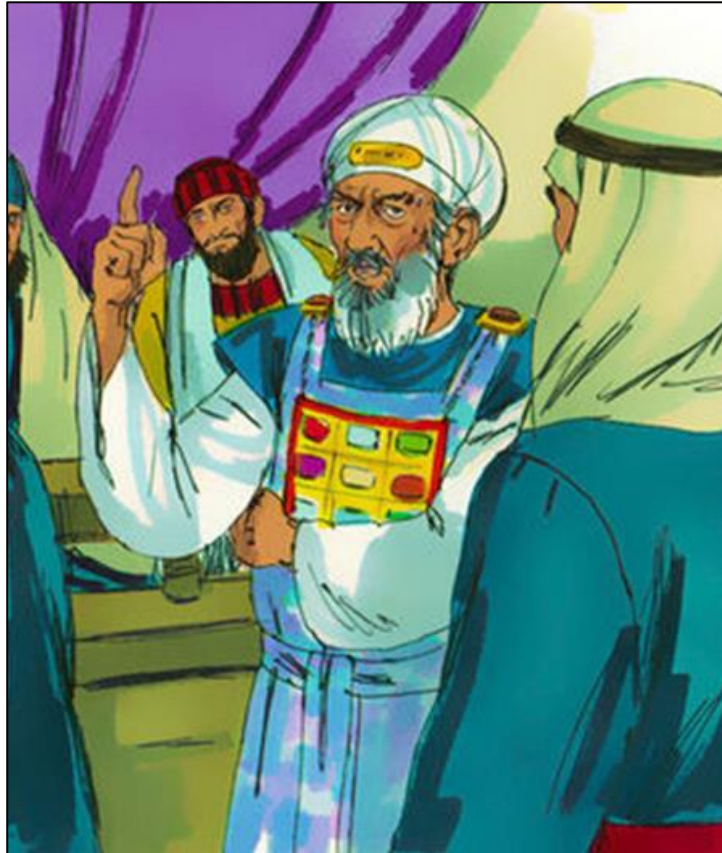
## The Rogues Gallery

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family.



## How did you do it?

They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them.. "By what power or what name did you do this?"



What do they want to know?



## Just as Jesus promised

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them..

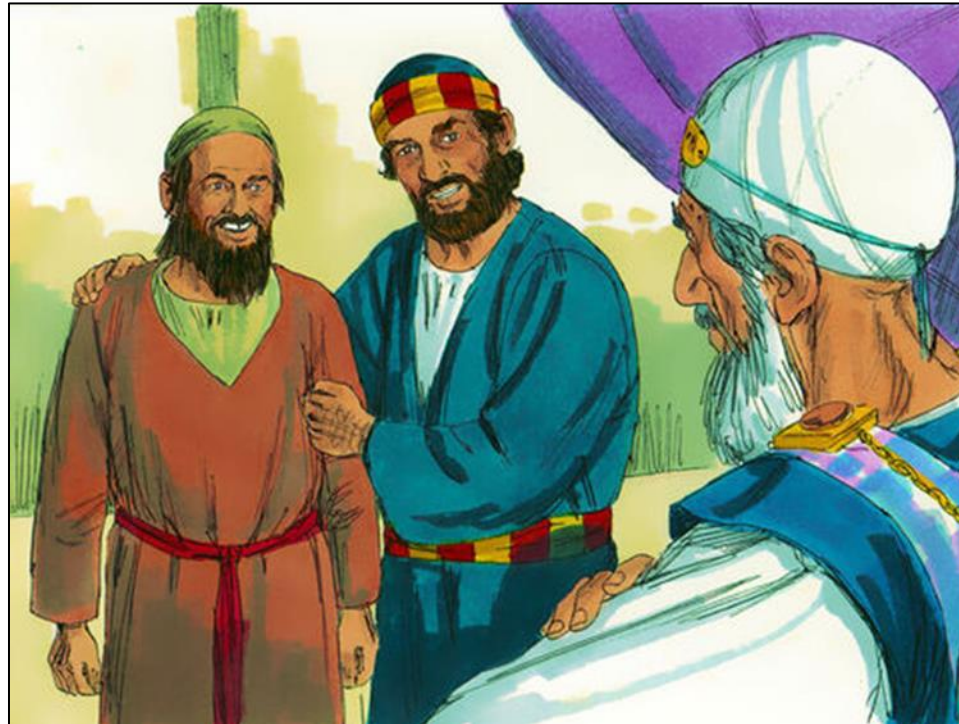
Luke 12:11-12 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”



Notice how the Spirit worked

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them..

"Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being **called to account today for an act of kindness** shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel.. "



"It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead**, that this man stands before you healed."



# It's in the BOOK

"He is `the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. `"

Psalm 118:22-23 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.



Jesus quotes this about himself  
in Matthew 21:9



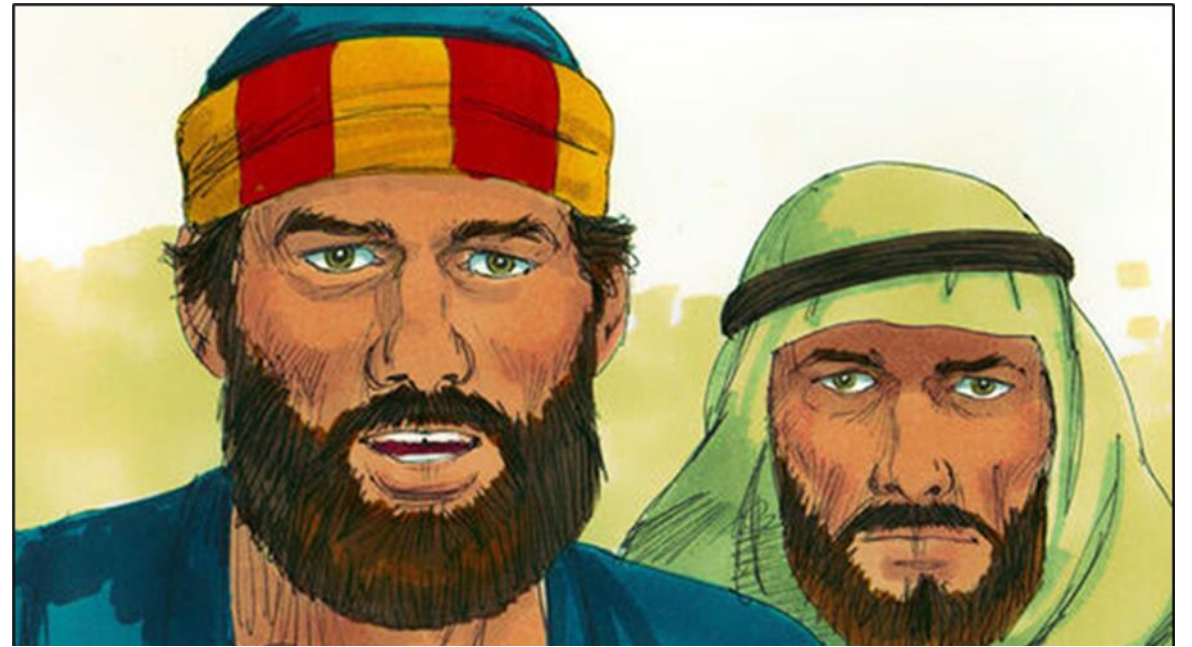
"Salvation is found in no one else,  
for there is no other name under heaven given to men  
by which **we** must be saved."



It could be good news

## What they saw

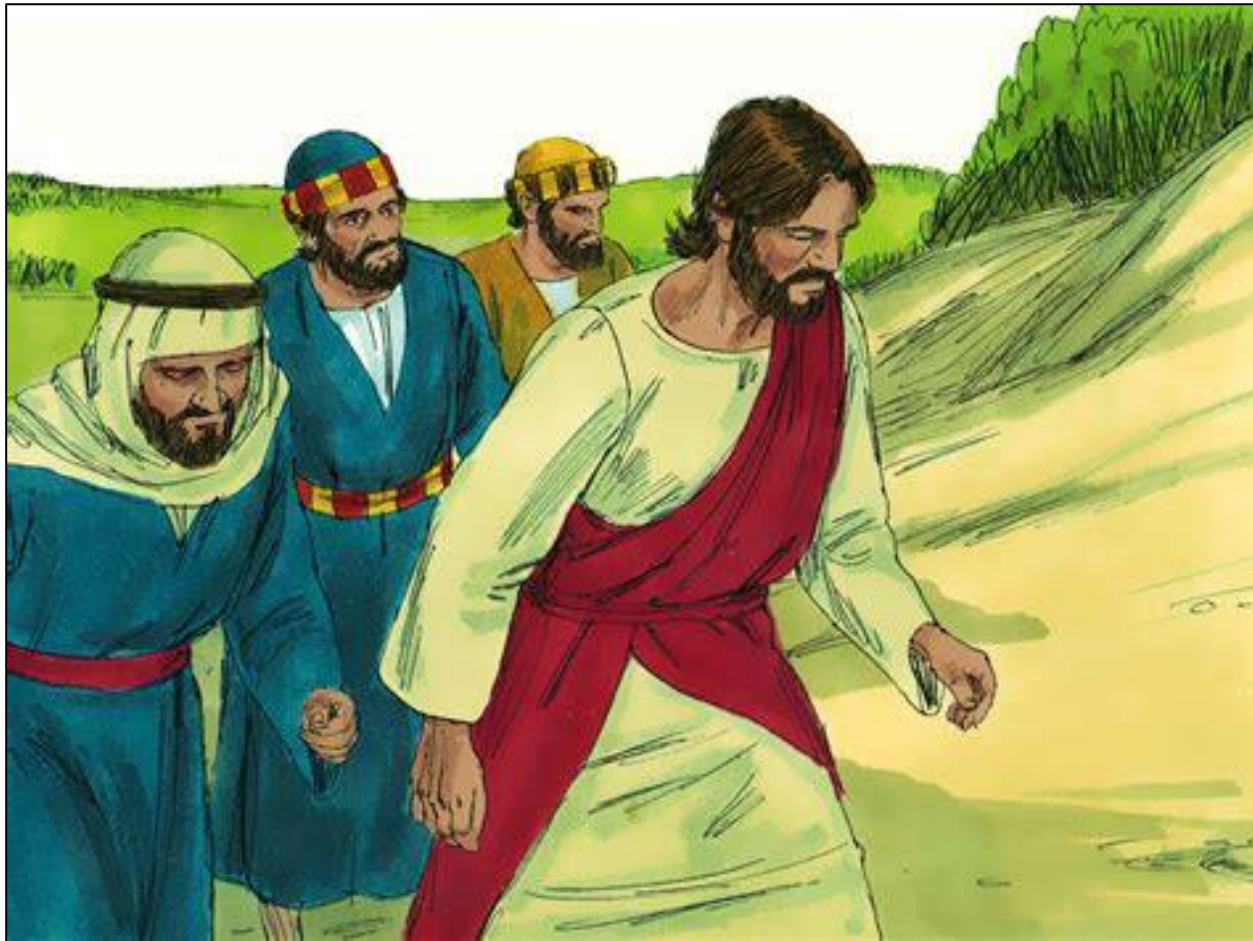
When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished



Unqualified?  
So where did their courage come from?

## What they saw and what they didn't see

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were **astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**



The essential qualification

## Lost for words??

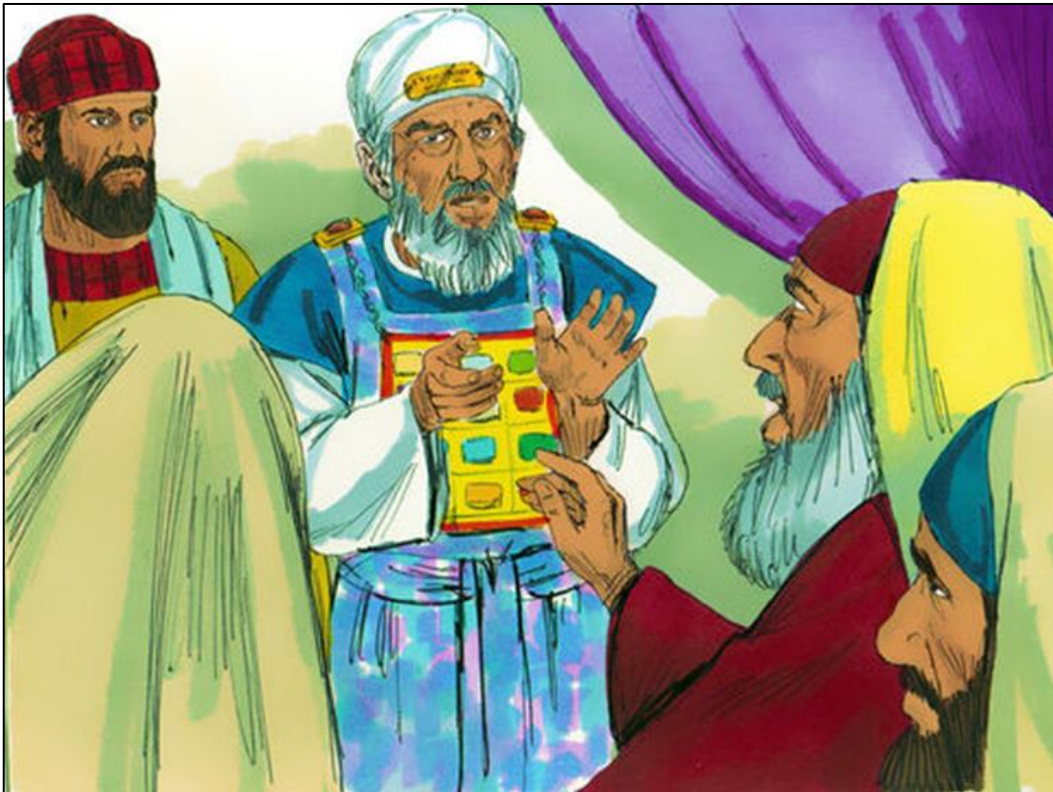
But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, **there was nothing they could say**. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.





## Corrupt council

"What are we going to do with these men?" they asked.  
"Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and **we cannot deny it.**"



Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed,

stop **this thing** from **spreading**

But to stop **this thing** from **spreading** any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."



Who are they wanting to 'protect'?

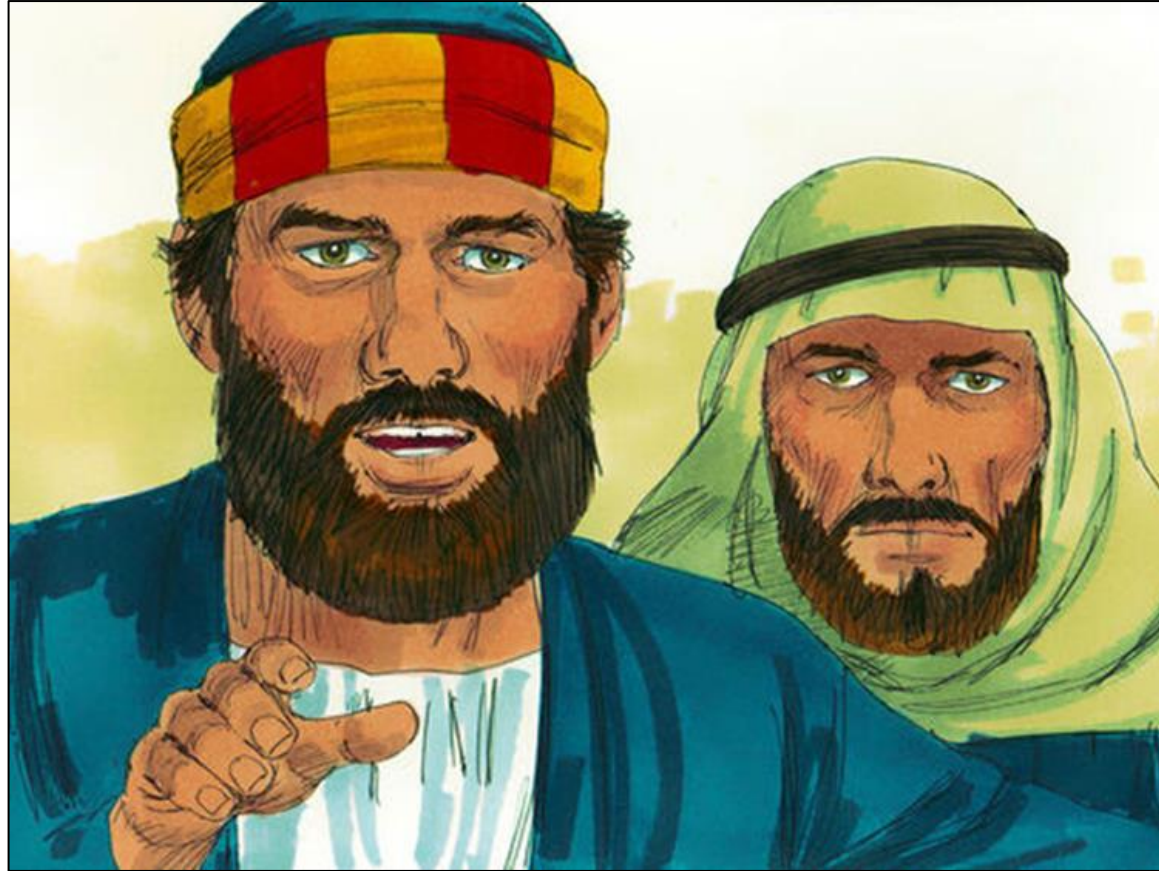


## It's an order from the government authorities

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

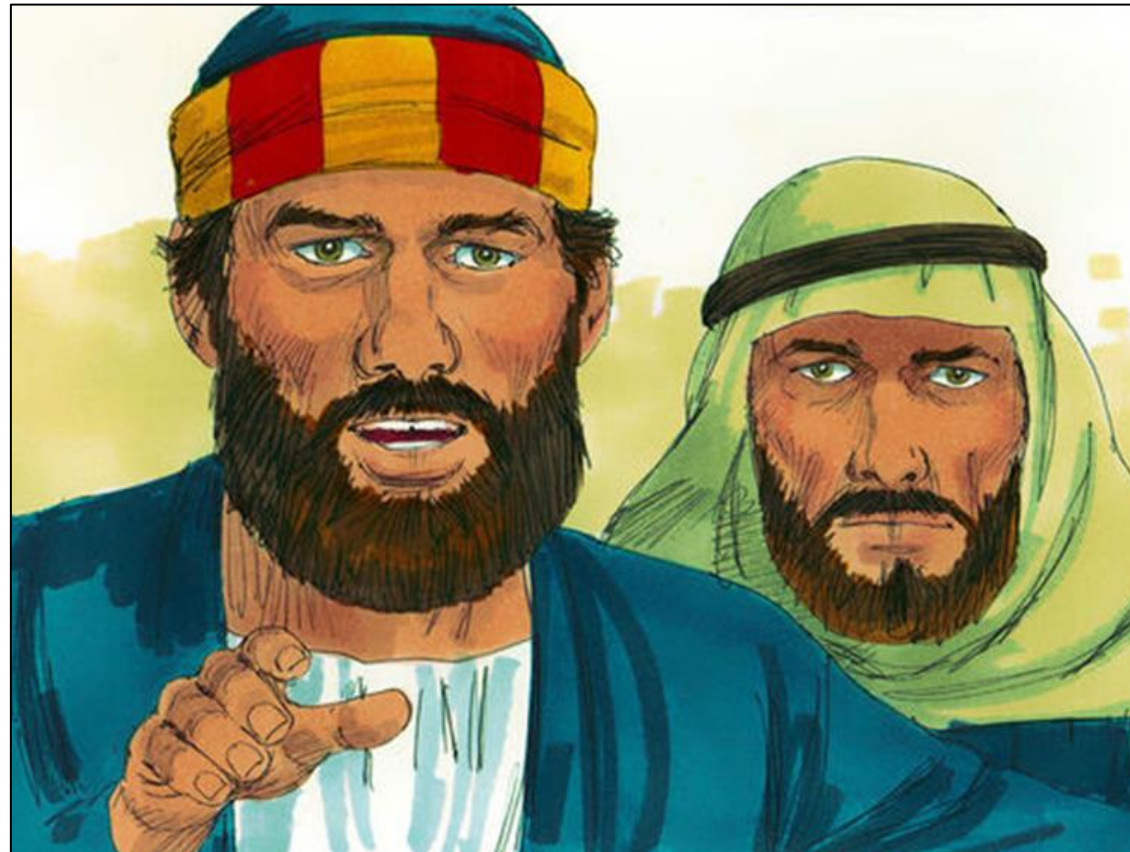


**But Peter and John replied,**



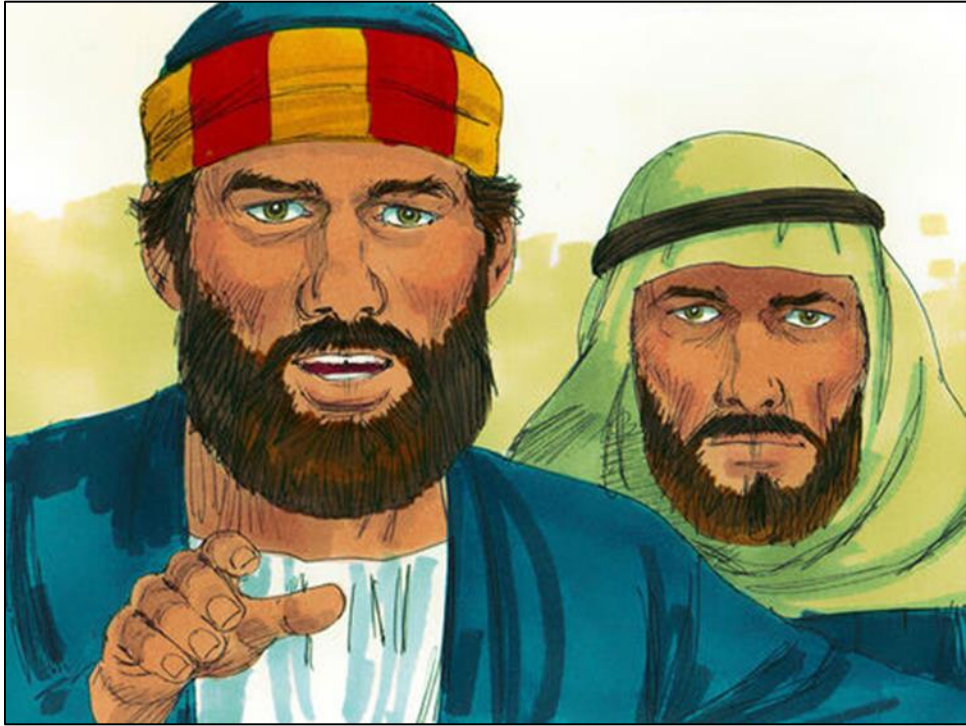
## When it is the right thing to disobey

But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is **right in God`s sight** to obey you rather than God."



## Witnesses of the events and teaching

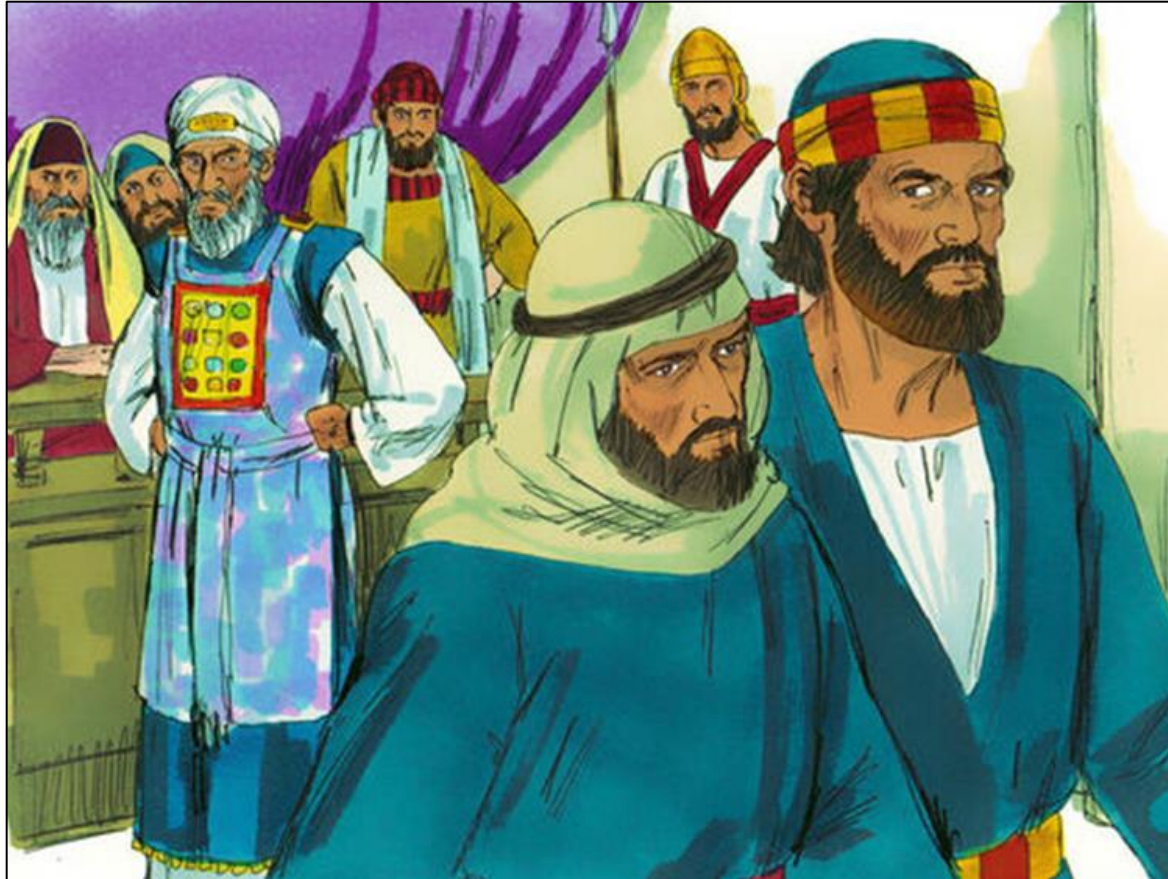
For we cannot (help) speaking  
about **what we have seen and heard.**"



Jesus had commanded them  
to speak!

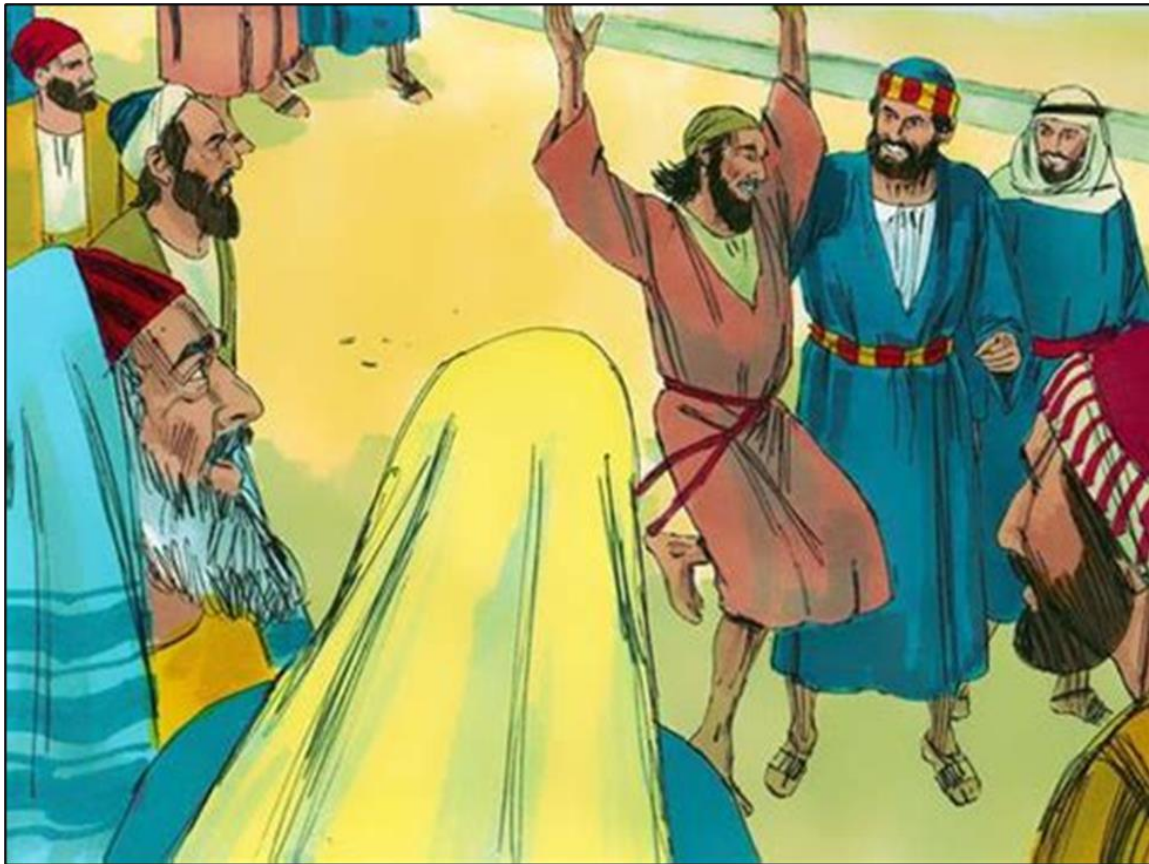
The Holy Spirit enabled them

After further threats they let them go.



further threats ?

They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was **over forty years old**.



More worried about public opinion than glad for the amazing miracle that had happened.



## They 'got away with it' this time

But being obedient to God when governments increasingly reject God's authority will bring believers into conflict with their unjust demands.



Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters