

5. Persecution and prayer (Acts 4)

*I have no silver and gold,
but what I do have I give to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
rise up and walk!*





And leaping up, he stood and began to walk,
and entered the temple with them,
walking and leaping and praising God.
And all the people saw him...

While he clung to Peter and John,
all the people, utterly astounded,
ran together to them...

**And when Peter saw it
he addressed the people...**

(Acts 3:8-12)

PETER SPEAKS TO THE CROWD

(Acts 3:12-26)

Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?

¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

¹⁶ And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled.

¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago.

Deuteronomy
18:15,18,19

²² Moses said, *'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.'* ²³ *And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'* ²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, *'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'*

²⁶ God, having raised up His servant, sent Him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.

What had these people done?

What does this healing prove?

Why is this quotation here?

What is the blessing here?

How did Peter and John feel?

How was the man healed?

What must they do now?

What is this quotation about?

Acts 3:12-26

Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this,
or why do you stare at us...?



The faith that is through Jesus
has given the man **this perfect health**
in the presence of you all.

The God of Abraham ...

glorified his servant Jesus,
whom you ... denied in the presence of Pilate...
and **you killed the Author of life,**
whom **God raised from the dead.**



And now, brothers,
I know that you acted in ignorance...



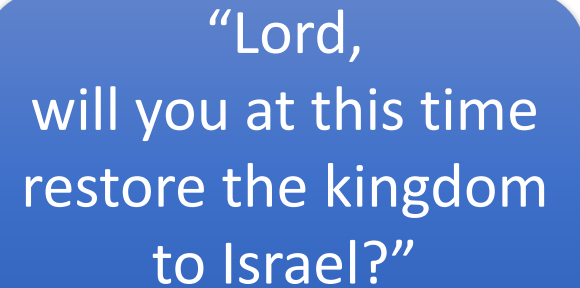
But **what God foretold**
by the mouth of all the prophets,
that his Christ would suffer,
He thus fulfilled.

Acts 3:12-26

Repent therefore, and turn back,
that your sins may be blotted out...

and that He may send the Christ appointed for you,
Jesus, whom heaven must receive

until the time for restoring all the things
about which God spoke
by the mouth of His holy prophets **long ago**.



“Lord,
will you at this time
restore the kingdom
to Israel?”

(Acts 1:6)

Acts 3:12-26

Now this is the testimony of John...

“Are you the Prophet?”

And he answered, “No.”

(John 1:19,21)

Then those men, when they had seen **the sign that Jesus did** said,

“This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

(John 6:14)

Deuteronomy
18:15,18,19

Moses said,

‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.

You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.

And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’

Acts 3:12-26

You are the sons of the prophets
and of the covenant that God made with your fathers,
saying to Abraham,

Genesis 12:3

***“And in your offspring
shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”***

Acts 3:12-26

God,
having raised up his servant,
sent him to you first,
to bless you
by turning every one of you
from your wickedness.



Now as they spoke to the people...

The
ACTS
Of the Apostles
Chapter 4

...the priests, the captain of the temple,
and the Sadducees came upon them ...
and **put them in custody** until the next day...

However, **many of those who heard the word believed;**
and the number of the men came to be about **five thousand.**

(Acts 4:1-4)

120



3,120



5,000+

By what power or
by what name
have you done this?

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

Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel,
that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom **you crucified**, whom **God raised** from the dead,
by Him this man stands here before you whole.

**This is the stone which was rejected by you builders,
which has become the chief cornerstone.**

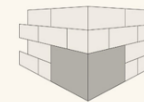
"Whoever falls on this stone will be broken;
but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."
(Matthew 21:44)

Psalm 118:22-24

*The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.*

*This was the LORD's doing;
It is marvelous in our eyes.*

*This is the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.*



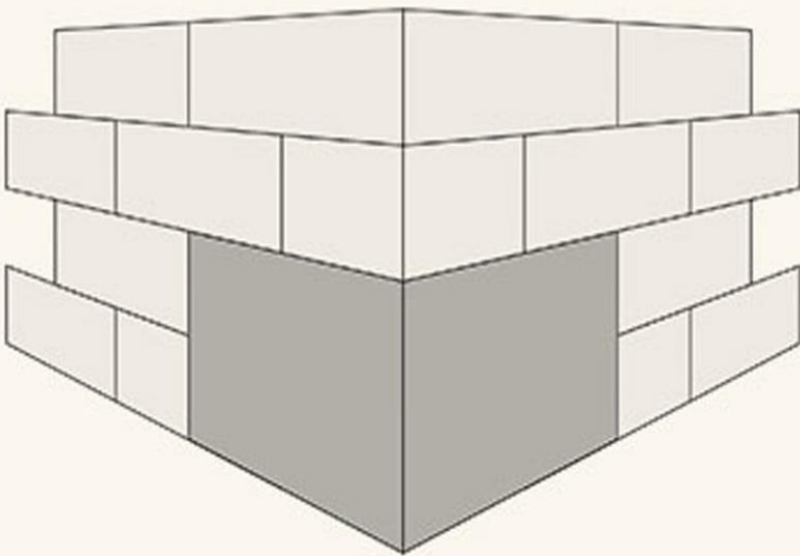
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that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom **you crucified**, whom **God raised** from the dead,
by Him this man stands here before you whole.

**This is the stone which was rejected by you builders,
which has become the chief cornerstone.**

➔ Nor is there salvation in any other,
for there is **no other name** under heaven
given among men by which we must be saved.

(Acts 4:10-12)

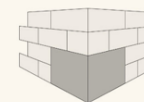
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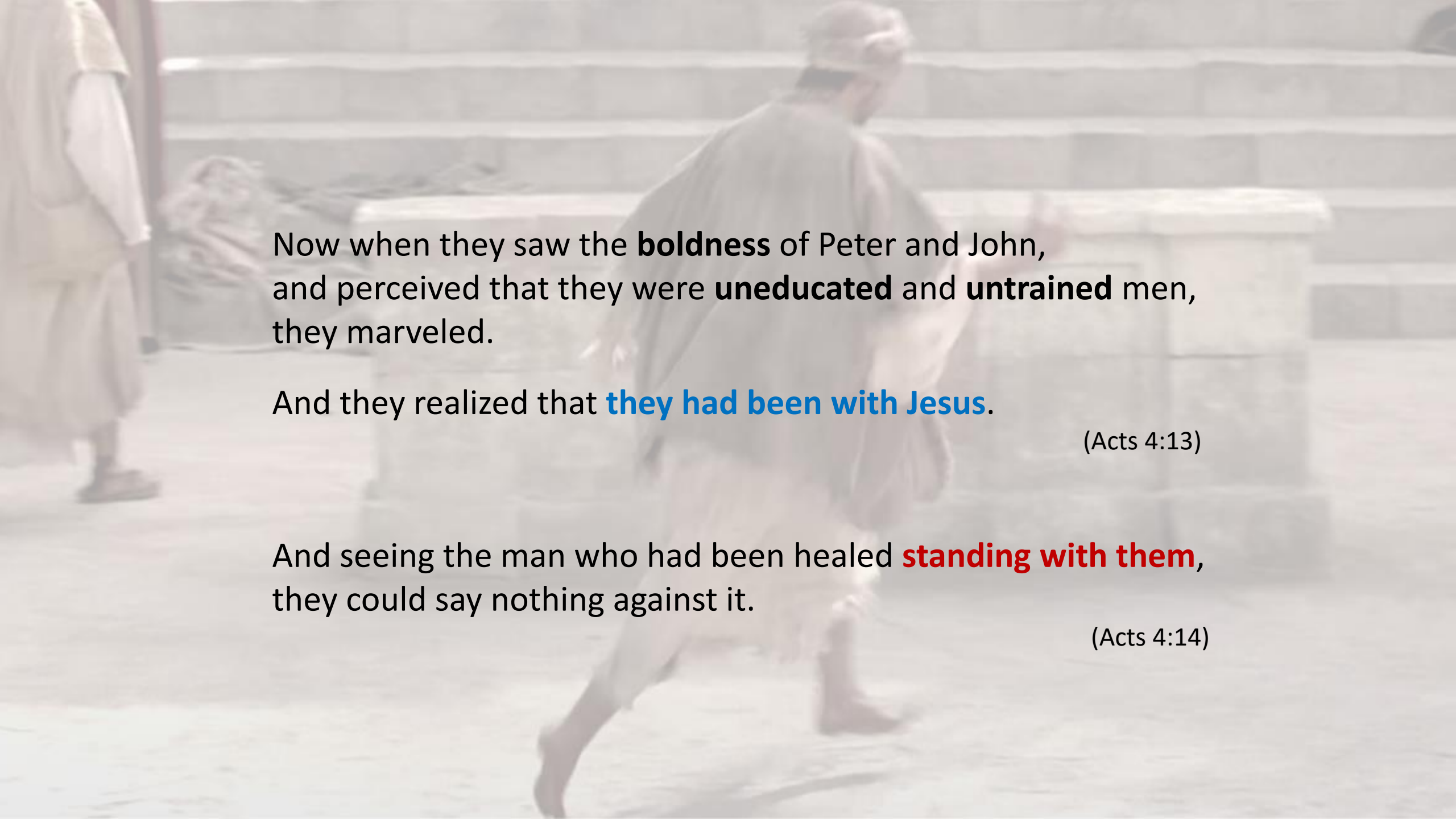
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A man in a brown robe is running up a set of stone steps. He is carrying a white cloth or bag over his shoulder. The background is a blurred stone wall. The text is overlaid on the image.


Now when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John,
and perceived that they were **uneducated** and **untrained** men,
they marveled.

And they realized that **they had been with Jesus**.

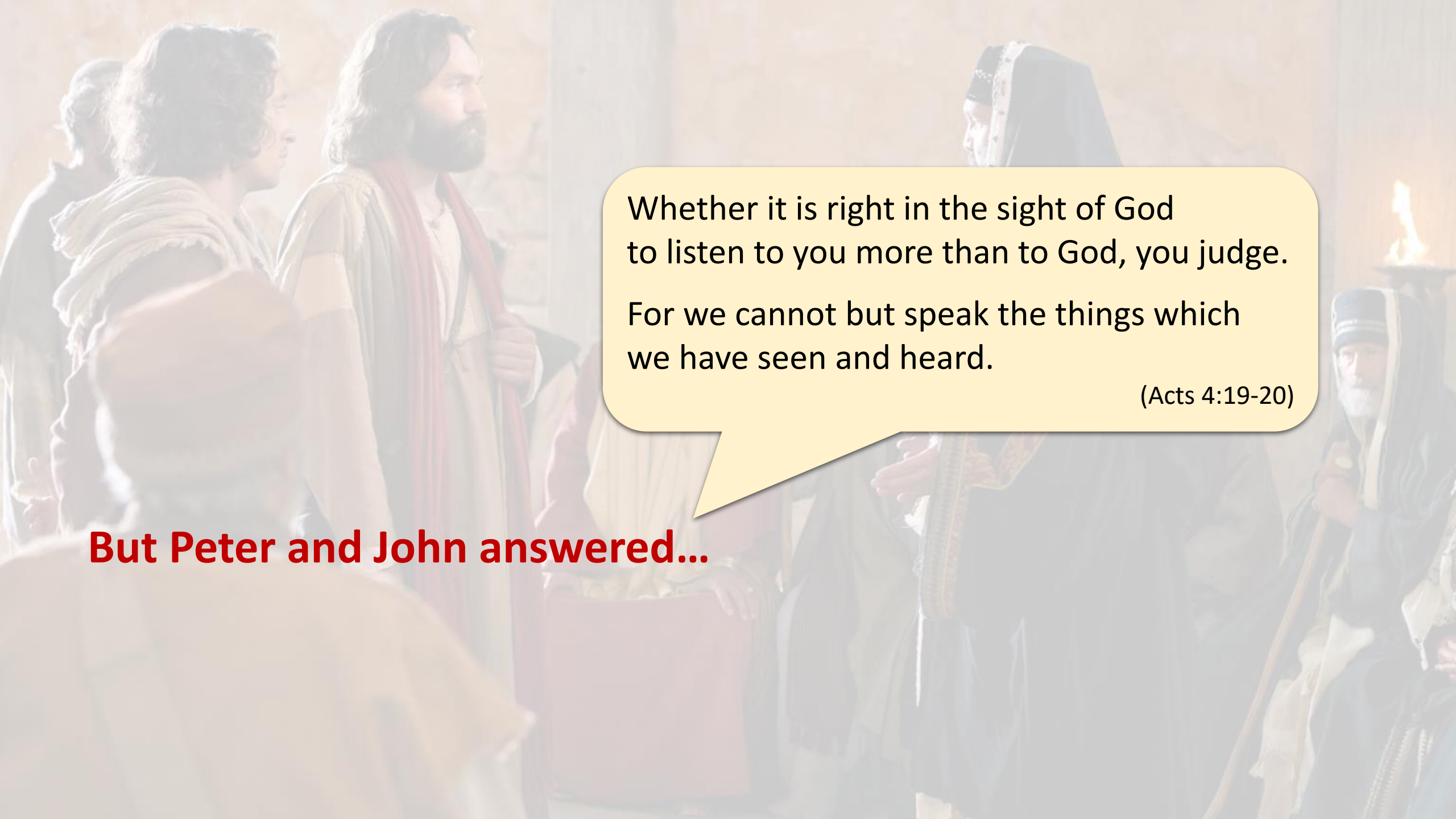
(Acts 4:13)

And seeing the man who had been healed **standing with them**,
they could say nothing against it.

(Acts 4:14)



**Do not to speak at all
nor teach in the
name of Jesus!**



Whether it is right in the sight of God
to listen to you more than to God, you judge.
For we cannot but speak the things which
we have seen and heard.

(Acts 4:19-20)

But Peter and John answered...

So when they had further **threatened** them,
they let them go...



And being let go,
they went to their own companions
and reported all that the chief priests
and elders had said to them.



And when they heard it,
they lifted their voices together to God
and said...

Sovereign Lord,
who made the heaven and the earth
and the sea and everything in them,

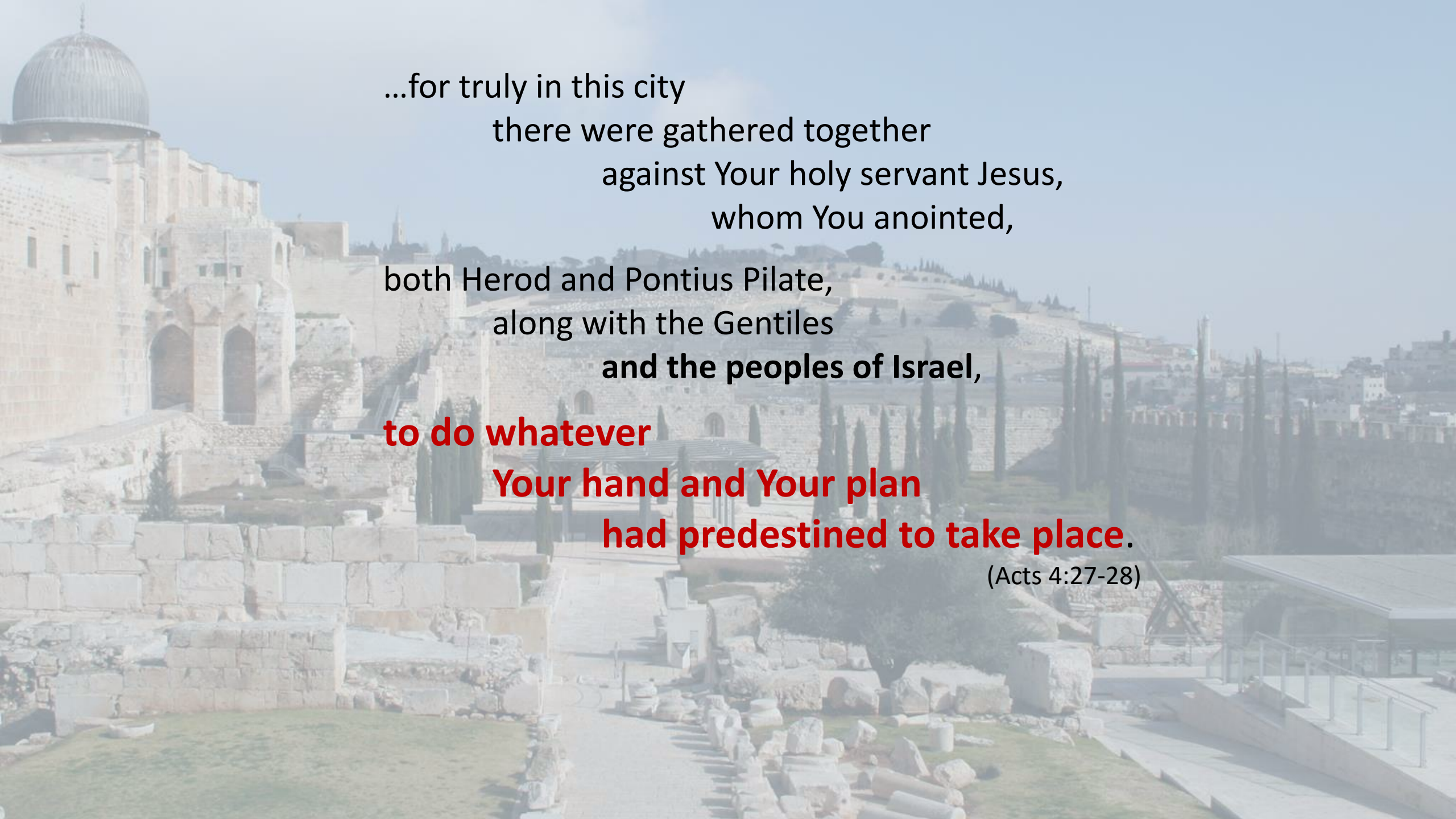
who through the mouth of our father David,
Your servant, said **by the Holy Spirit,**

*Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?*

*The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed*

(Acts 4:24-26)

Psalm 2:1-2

The background image shows a panoramic view of Jerusalem, featuring the Dome of the Rock on the left and various ancient ruins and modern structures across the city. The text is overlaid on this scene.

...for truly in this city
there were gathered together
against Your holy servant Jesus,
whom You anointed,
both Herod and Pontius Pilate,
along with the Gentiles
and the peoples of Israel,
to do whatever
Your hand and Your plan
had predestined to take place.

(Acts 4:27-28)

And now, Lord, look upon **their threats**
and grant to Your servants to continue
to speak Your word with all boldness,
while You stretch out Your hand to heal,
and signs and wonders are performed
through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.

(Acts 4:29-30)

And when they had prayed,
the place in which
they were gathered together
was shaken,
and they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit
and continued to speak
the word of God **with boldness.**
(Acts 4:31)



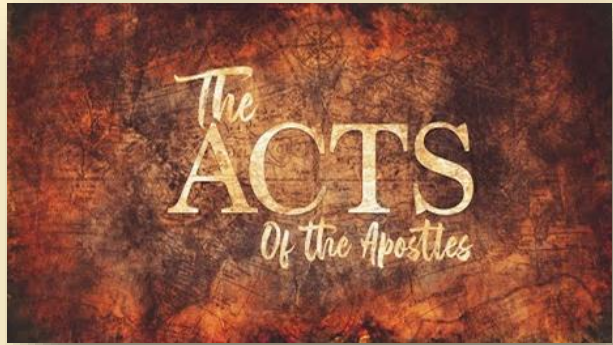
WHAT HAVE WE SEEN?

Their message:

- You crucified Him, but God has raised Him
- This was always God's plan, spoken of by the prophets

Their manner:

- In the face of opposition – boldness to speak God's word
- In the face of threats – prayer for a bold witness



Next: **Life, death and trials...**