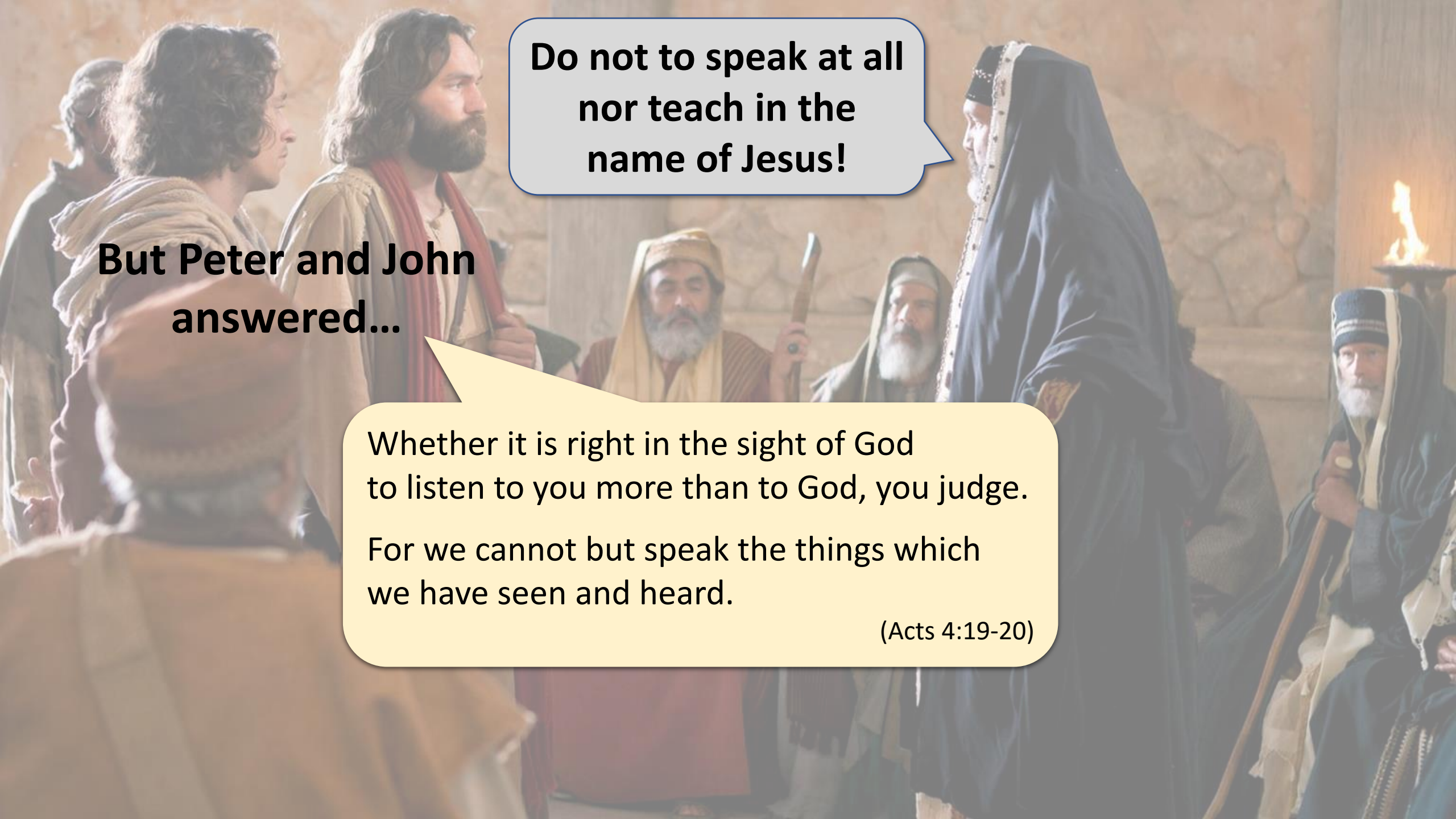


6. Life, Death and Trials (Acts 4:32 – 5:42)



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

**But Peter and John
answered...**

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)

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)



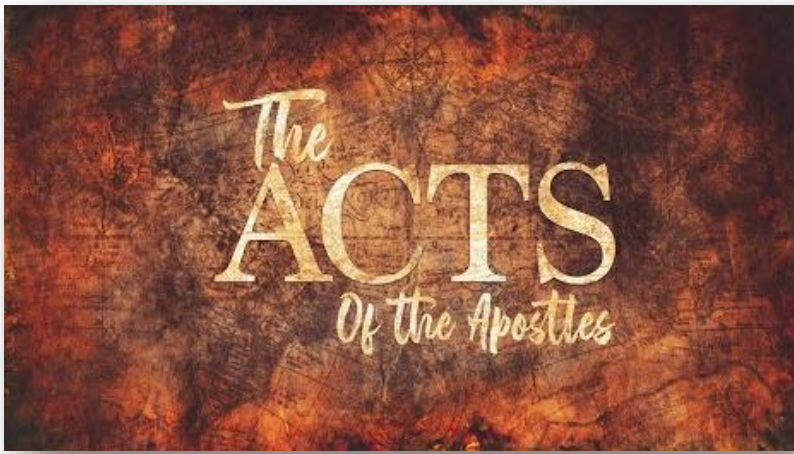
WHAT DID WE SEE?

Their message:

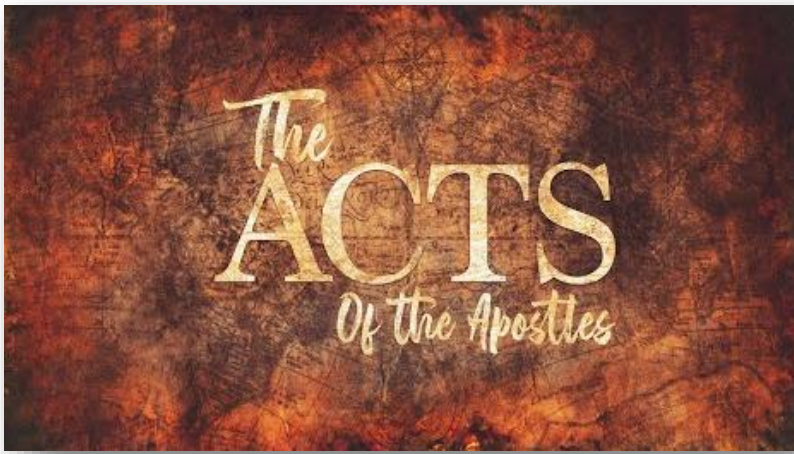
- You crucified the Christ, but God has raised Him
- His death was God's plan, foretold by the prophets

Their manner:

- In the face of opposition, they boldly spoke God's word
- In the face of threats, they prayed



- The life of the new believers (Acts 4:32-35 and 5:12-16)
- Life and Death (Acts 4:36-37 and 5:1-11)
- Prison, perseverance and pain (Acts 5:17-42)



- **The life of the new believers** (Acts 4:32-35 and 5:12-16)
- Life and Death (Acts 4:36-37 and 5:1-11)
- Prison, perseverance and pain (Acts 5:17-42)

The life of the new believers

The multitude of those who believed:

- They were of one heart and one soul
- They had all things in common

None among them lacked anything:

- All who had lands or houses sold them
- They distributed to each as anyone had need

Great grace was upon them all

See

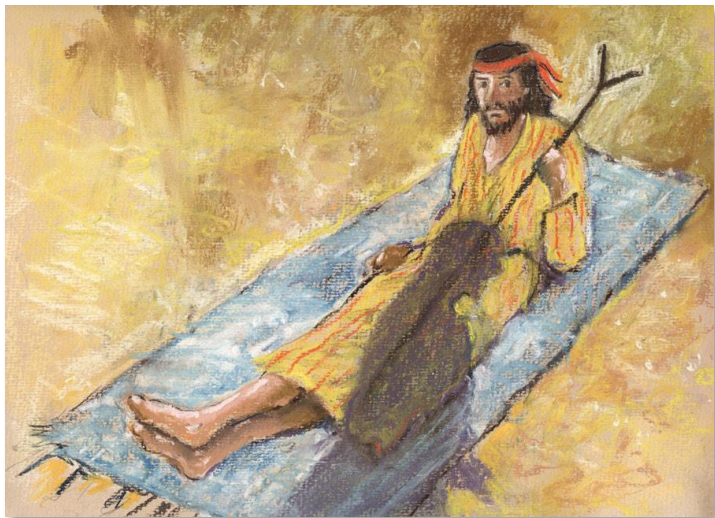
➔ **Acts 4:32-35**

The life of the new believers

With **great power**
the apostles were giving witness
to **the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus.
(Acts 4:33)

Many signs and wonders
were regularly done among the people
by the hands of **the apostles**.
(Acts 5:12)

They even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats,
that as **Peter** came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.



The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem,
bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits,
and they were all healed. ←

See → **Acts 5:12-16**

The life of the new believers

They were all together in Solomon's Portico.

None of the rest **dared** join them,
but the people esteemed them highly.

And more than ever **believers were added to the Lord**,
multitudes of both men and women...

See

→ **Acts 5:12-14**

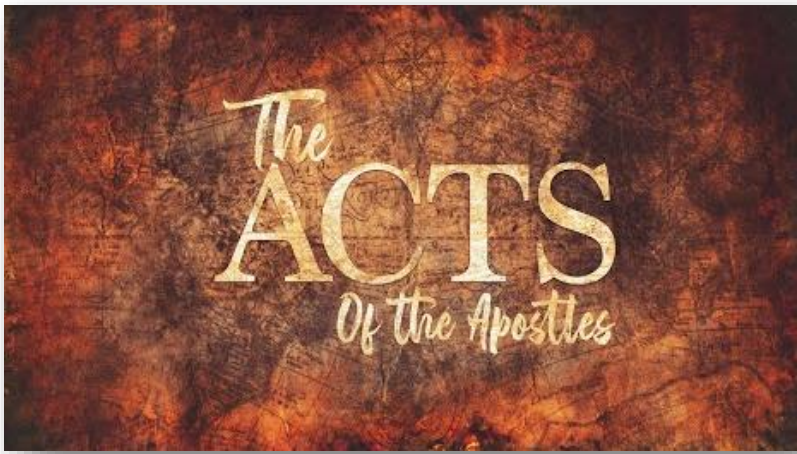
The life of the new believers

QUESTION:

What would it have been like to be one of these people?

You had **compassion** on those in prison, and **you joyfully accepted** the plundering of your goods, since you knew that you yourselves had a **better** possession and an **abiding** one.

(Hebrews 10:34)



- The life of the new believers (Acts 4:32-35 and 5:12-16)
- **Life and Death** (Acts 4:36-37 and 5:1-11)
- Prison, perseverance and pain (Acts 5:17-42)

Life and Death



Joses/Joseph, renamed Barnabas (= Son of Encouragement), a **Levite** from **Cyprus**, sold land, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

(See Acts 4:36-37)

Life and Death

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM
WITH THIS?

But a certain man named **Ananias**,
with his wife **Sapphira**,
sold a possession,
and **kept back part** of the proceeds,
with his wife's knowledge,
and brought a certain part
and laid it at the apostles' feet.
(Acts 5:1-2)



Life and Death

**You have not lied to men
but to God.**
(Acts 5:4)

Ananias, why has **Satan**
filled your heart
to lie to the **Holy Spirit**...?
(Acts 5:3)

So great fear came upon all **the church**
and upon **all who heard** these things.
(Acts 5:11)

Life and Death

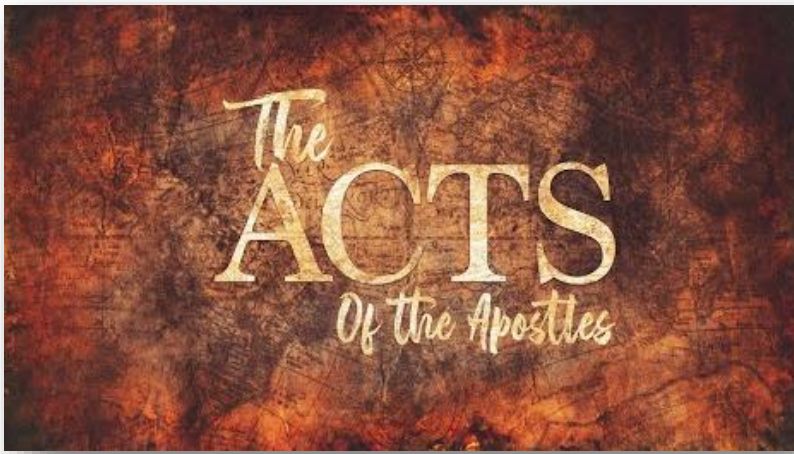
TWO QUESTIONS:

- Why did the Lord do this?
- Does it still happen?

There is sin
leading to death.
(1 John 5:16)

When we are judged,
we are **disciplined** by the Lord,
that we may not be
condemned with the world.

(1 Corinthians 11:32)



- The life of the new believers (Acts 4:32-35 and 5:12-16)
- Life and Death (Acts 4:36-37 and 5:1-11)
- **Prison, perseverance and pain** (Acts 5:17-42)

Prison, perseverance and pain

**But at night an angel of the Lord opened
the prison doors and brought them out...**

(Acts 5:19)

*Go, stand in the temple
and speak to the people
all the words of this life.*



Prison, perseverance and pain

We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them **we found no one inside!**

(Acts 5:23)


Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and **teaching the people!**

(Acts 5:25)

Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?

And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring **this man's blood** on us!

(Acts 5:28)



His blood be on us and on our children.
(Matthew 27:25)

Prison, perseverance and pain

We ought to obey God rather than men.

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus
whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

Him God has exalted to His right hand
to be Prince and Saviour,
to give **repentance to Israel** and **forgiveness of sins.**

And we are His witnesses to these things,
and **so also is the Holy Spirit**
whom God has given to those **who obey Him.**

(Acts 5:29-32)

Prison, perseverance and pain

If this plan or this undertaking is of man,
it will fail; but if it is of God,
you will not be able to overthrow them.
You might even be found opposing God!

(Acts 5:38-39)



...and when they had
called for the apostles
and beaten them,
they commanded that
they should not speak
in the name of Jesus,
and let them go.

(Acts 5:40)

Prison, perseverance and pain

So they departed from the presence of the council,
**rejoicing that they were counted worthy
to suffer shame for His name.**

And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they did not cease **teaching** and **preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

(Acts 5:41-42)



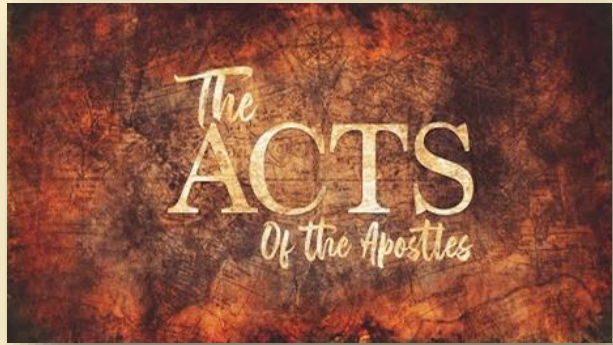
Prison, perseverance and pain

The time is coming
that whoever kills you
will think that he is
offering service to God.
(John 16:2)

QUESTION:

How were they able
to keep going?

I have said these things to you,
that **in me** you may have **peace**.
In the world you will have **tribulation**.
But take heart; **I have overcome the world**.
(John 16:33)



Next: **Stephen...**