

TITLE: Persecution, preaching and prayer

TEXT: Acts 4:1-31

I. The results of the miracle and the message (4:1-4)

- A. Resistance
- B. Relationship
- C. Reception

II. The revealing of the truth (4:5-22)

- A. The accusation
- B. The answer
- C. The angst
- D. The authority question

III. The response to the trial (4:23-31)

- A. The comfort of community
- B. The confidence of sovereignty
- C. The call for help

## ABF Discussion Exercises

“When we declare the truth, there are two very important things for us to keep in mind. We are confronting people in a way that contradicts what they believe and it condemns them for their error. Knowing this, we should expect opposition. This is the “stumbling block” and “rock of offense” which is the Gospel.”

**Check In (Takeaway from last week): What was one circumstance you would have been able to present the Gospel to another person or group of people last week?**

### 1. What is the offense of the Gospel?

“For the disciples to teach a resurrection from the dead through Jesus was to teach that the Jewish leaders had been wrong—dead wrong.”

**Read Acts 4:1-2 & 10-12** and discuss the following questions, comparing with the difficulties in sharing the Gospel in today’s society.

The Supernatural God is Real: What is the Sadducees’ issue with the Gospel in vs. 2?

We Have Denied His Christ: What action does Peter condemn in vs. 10?

We Have the Answer in the Bible: What is significant about Psalm 118:22 in vs. 11?

There is Only One Way to Heaven: What is that Way in vs. 12?

### 2. What is the authority of the Gospel?

“It is easy for us to listen to the rhetoric of our culture and accept the notion that “everybody “has the right” to their own opinion, and therefore, I do not have the right to speak truth to them.”

**Read the following passages** and discuss the correct response to God’s authority:

**Acts 4:7-12** – Proclaim Jesus Christ as one’s ONLY hope (Why is this so hard?)

**Acts 4:19-20** – Speak of Jesus’ impact on our lives (How do we struggle with this?)

**Acts 4:24-29** – Be bold because God’s in control of ALL men (How can prayer help?)

## Takeaway

**Close in prayer for one another, that we would share with “great boldness” what Jesus has done in our life with someone that we haven’t given the Gospel.**