

Acts 4

Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"

Acts 4:1-22

1. Who approach Peter and John as they were speaking?
2. How are they described?
3. What were they teaching?
4. What happens to Peter and John? At what time of day are they arrested?
5. What is the result of their preaching?
6. In verses 5-6 note the different groups of people and individuals listed.
7. Where do they "place" Peter and John and what do they ask them?
8. How does Peter respond? How is he described?
9. Note the message of Peter in vs. 8-12, list the main points.
10. What do the rulers notice about Peter and John (vs. 13)?
11. How do the rulers respond? What do they tell Peter and John?
12. How do Peter and John respond to them?
13. Why do the rulers release Peter and John?
14. How old was the man who was healed?
15. Note any other observations: Who, What, Where, Why, When, How?

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

Acts 4:1-22

1. There are two reasons given in verse two as to why the priests were upset. What were they and why is this upsetting to the priests? The Sadducees had a particular theological perspective that is relevant here – see Matthew 22:23-24
2. Notice the mention of all three persons of the trinity in vs 8-12. Look up the following verses that reveal the teaching of the trinity: 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22 (3 parallel passages); Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:16-20; John 10:30; John 14:9, 16-17; 15:26; 1 Peter 1:2; Titus 3:4-6; Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Jude 20-21.
3. Verse 11 is a quotation from Psalm 118:22. Compare Matthew 21:42-46, note any parallels to this passage. Look up 1 Peter 2:6-8.
4. This is the third recorded sermon (extended statement of the gospel) in Acts: 2:14-36; 3:11-26; 4:8-12. What would you say is the thrust/theme of Peter's message?
5. 4:12 states that "there is salvation in no one else." What does this mean? How would you defend this using other passages from the Bible.
6. Compare the two phrases in verses 16 and 20: the rulers "cannot deny" the miracle and the disciples "cannot" stop speaking about Jesus?
7. Why is it significant to know the age of the man?
8. What else strikes you in this passage? Where did your interest take you in study?

Application: What does the passage mean to me?

Acts 4:1-22

1. Are you confident in your faith? What would it take to get you to a place of confidence. Take some time to make a plan for the rest of this year in terms of your spiritual confidence. What needs to happen for you to grow from here.

Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"

Acts 4:23-37

1. After Peter and John are released what do they do?
2. How do the people respond?
3. What do the people pray for?
4. What happens after they pray?
5. What is the response of the people to the events of chapters 1-4 (vs. 32-37)?
6. Note any other observations: Who, What, Where, Why, When, How?

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

Acts 4:23-37

1. The prayer of the people quotes the Scripture: Psalm 146:6; Psalm 2:1-2.
2. The passage says that God anointed Jesus. When did this happen? (Luke 4:18; Luke 3:21-22).
3. Verse 28 tells us that Jesus was opposed/killed in line with the purposes of God, which he predestined. Compare Acts 2:23; 3:18; 13:27-29; Matthew 26:24, 54; Luke 22:22; 24:44-46; I Peter 2:7-8. See also Isaiah 5:19; Isaiah 46:10; Isaiah 53:10; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 6:17; Romans 8:28-30. How would you define predestination? What problems does this raise, solve?
4. Look up Colossians 4:2-4. What can these prayers teach us about prayer?
5. What can we learn from vs. 32-37 about our life together as Christians?
6. What else strikes you in this passage? Where did your interest take you in study?

Application: What does the passage mean to me?

Acts 4:23-37

1. Are there things you could do to make your faith more evident to others – what would that be?
2. How can you help create more of a community feeling within the body? What can you do with your possessions and resources to foster unity in the church?