

## **Sermon Handout**

### Standing Firm for Jesus

#### Acts 4:5-22

- I. The Setting** vv. 5-7 (v. 5 “gathered together” = the council met)
- a. Composition of the group
    - i. “rulers” – ref to the priests (dominated by Sadducee party)
    - ii. “elders” – selected representatives of the people
    - iii. “scribes” – legal experts (mostly Pharisees)
    - iv. Specific priests – Annas, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, unnamed others
  - b. This is clearly the Sanhedrin v. 15
  - c. Jesus tried by this same body Lk 22:66
    - i. Jn 18:12-16 Peter & John w/ Jesus that night (“captain” v. 12 *cf.* Acts 4:1)
    - ii. Mk 14:53-55 Jesus before Sanhedrin, Peter present *cf.* Lk 22:54
    - iii. Mt 26:57-59 same as Mark’s account, Caiaphas specifically mentioned
- II. Peter speaks before the Sanhedrin**
- a. Jesus precisely predicted this situation Lk 21:12-15 (*cf.* Moses at the bush)
    - i. “on account of my name” Acts 3:6, 16, 4:2, 7, 10, 12, 17-18
    - ii. “I will give you a mouth & wisdom” Acts 4:8-12
    - iii. “[they] cannot resist or dispute you” Acts 4:16, 21
  - b. The Sanhedrin’s question – “by what power, what authority?”  
“men like you” (unlettered laymen v. 13)
  - c. “filled with the Spirit” Peter addresses the Sanhedrin and “all the people”
    - i. This “deed of kindness” is done by authority of Jesus the Nazaraean
    - ii. “whom you crucified and God raised from the dead” *cf.* 3:13-15; 2:23-24
  - d. Citation of Ps 118:22-24 *see* Mk 12:1-11 (connected to the murder of the son)
    - i. Mt 21:42-45 – Ps 118 relates the destruction of the OT system (Lk 20:17ff)
    - ii. Is 8:14-15; Dan 2:34-35; I Pet 2:6-10; Rom 9:31-33; Is 28:16
    - iii. Peter ties the “stone” directly to Jesus’ salvific authority v. 12
  - e. The Sanhedrin is confounded vv. 13-22; P & J assert the necessity of their witness
- III. The Lesson**
- a. Lk 21:12-15 is not a blanket promise to believers of all time, but to Apostles
  - b. Direction from the Apostles to the following generations is clear:
    - i. Know the Word II Tim 2:15-19; 3:14-17
    - ii. Consecrate your ways to Jesus I Pet 3:10-18; II Cor 13:11; I Cor 16:13