



acts.

4

when.

- The first part of Acts 4 is the continuation of a story that started in Acts 3 (the healing of the lame man in the Temple).
- These events took place around 30 AD.

characters.

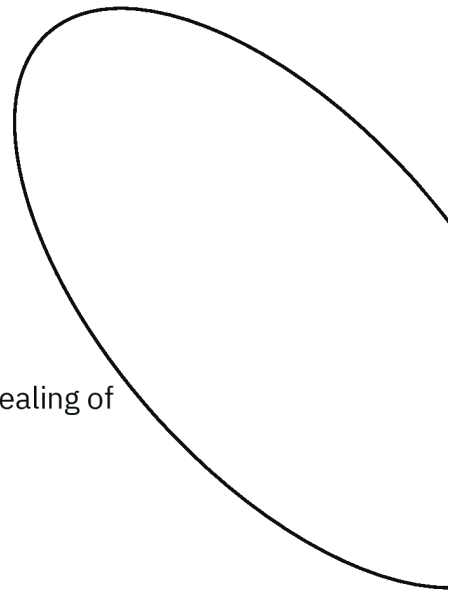
- **Peter and John** – Apostles who were preaching about Jesus’ resurrection in Acts 3
- **Jewish Officials** – The Jewish religious leaders who killed Jesus and wanted to suppress news of His resurrection.
- **Annas and Caiaphas** – High Priests of the Jews. Annas was the high priest before Caiaphas and was his father-in-law.
- **5,000 Believers** – 5,000 people who believed in Jesus due to Peter’s preaching.
- **Joseph (Barnabas)** – A generous man who sold a field and gave the money to the Apostles.

where.

- The events of chapter 4 occurred in Jerusalem.

Notes

Reflection & Application



outline.

- PETER AND JOHN ARE ARRESTED FOR PREACHING IN THE TEMPLE (4:1-22):
 - + The fact that Peter was preaching about Jesus (see Acts 3) greatly annoyed the priests, the captain of the Temple, and the Sadducees.
 - + They had Peter and John arrested and kept in custody overnight.
 - + Nonetheless, about 5,000 people were convicted by Peter's miracle of healing the lame man and by the case he presented proving Jesus as the Christ.
 - + The next day, the Jewish leaders asked Peter and John "By what power or by what name did you do this?"
 - + Peter told them the miracle he performed was by the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the same man the Jewish leaders crucified.
 - + Peter told them salvation could be found no where else but in the name of Jesus.
 - + Having no way to deny the genuineness of the miracle, the Jewish leaders threatened the Apostles and told them to stop preaching Jesus.
 - + Peter and John answered them "...we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."
- THE BELIEVERS MEET TOGETHER AND ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (4:23-31):
 - + After being released, Peter and John went to the other believers and recounted their experience.
 - + The disciples praised God because although men of authority, kings, rulers, and nations had tried to stop Jesus' mission they had not been successful. God was in control of everything.
 - + The believers prayed for boldness and continued miracles to help them spread the gospel message.
 - + After praying, the house shook and they were "filled with the Holy Spirit."
- THE DISCIPLES SHARE THEIR POSSESSIONS AND GIVE CHARITABLY (4:32-37):
 - + Jesus' followers shared a deep unity with one another.
 - + They shared their possessions with anyone who had a need.
 - + People who owned land and houses sold them and gave the money to the Apostles so they could distribute it appropriately.
 - + One man named Joseph (Barnabas), a Levite from Cyprus, sold a field and gave the proceeds to the Apostles.

application.

- Sometimes it's appropriate to pray for boldness to get through difficult situations, rather than praying for those difficult situations to be removed from our lives.
- Notice, the disciples in verses 23-31 didn't pray for an easy life, they prayed for boldness to do hard things in the face of a difficult life.
- God does a lot of refining work by allowing His children to face difficulty.
- If life was easy, we would never grow, we would never develop patience and perseverance.
- Rather than praying for our lives to get easier, why not pray for God to make us stronger?