

SEEKING OUR OWN COMPANY

ACTS 4:23-31

Introduction:

- A. Peter and John have appeared before the council
 - 1) They have questioned them Vs. 7
 - 2) It was a preliminary hearing

- B. The council did not accept the truth; did not believe their story
 - 1) Vs. 16....."and we cannot deny it"
 - 2) They did not want it spread Vs. 17

- C. They (are unsure of) fear any course of action other than that of fear and intimidation
 - 1) They commanded them Vs. 18
 - 2) They threatened them Vs. 21

- D. They then "let them go" Vs. 23
 - 1) "And being let go"
 - 2) "let go" = apoluthentes = "to release", "unloose"

- I. Seeking One's Own Company, The Fact Of It Vs. 23
 - A. What did Peter and John do after their release?
 - 1) ".....they went to their own company,"
 - 2) "own" = idios = "one's own"
 - 3) "they went back to their own group"

 - B. These men were subject to a law, "like seeks like", "owl to owl and crow to crow", Birds of a feather
 - 1) Every material substance has certain characteristics, qualities. Qualities make affinities. According to affinities one chooses companionships.
 - 2) Mix two substances in water, each will then seek it's own. It will find it's own level.

- 3) Now, take the great mixture of human life and see the working of those same forces. A factory or office building lets out it's work force of the day. Follow each of them until they go to their bed at night and you will see this law working.
- 4) Or better still, let us watch on Sunday morning and at other times when the church is meeting and we will see this law of human nature work itself in the hearts and lives of people.

C. "and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them"

- 1) "reported" = apaggello = "to report or to bring a message"
- 2) They related what had been said

II. One's Own Company, The Approval Of It Vs. 24-28

A. They lifted up their voice to God in unison Vs. 24a

- 1) "lifted" = airo = "to take up", "to lift up"
- 2) "accord" = omothumadon = omos = "like", thumos = "mind"

B. They praised God's power as creator Vs. 24b

- 1) If He created all things, He is in control
- 2) If He is in control, we will be cared for

C. They cited truths from Scripture

- 1) Vs. 25, Psalm 1:1
- 2) Vs. 26, Psalm 1:2

D. They interpreted and applied scripture Vs. 27

- 1) They Gentiles "ragged" against Him
- 2) The rulers stood against Him
- 3) The people of Israel rejected Him

E. These actions did not surprise God Vs. 28

- 1) "thy hand" God's hand was seen in it!
- 2) "thy counsel" God's wisdom was seen in it!
- 3) "determined" = proorizo = "to determine beforehand"
- 4) Jesus wasn't crucified because men hated God, but because God loved men

F. How these two men must have rejoiced to have the godly response of the church!

- 1) They turned to God in praise
- 2) They turned to the Scriptures

III. One's Own Company and Prayer Vs. 29-30

A. "And now Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word." Vs. 29

- 1) "threatenings" = apeile = "to hold out promises", "or threats", "to menace"
- 2) "grant" = didomi = "give"
- 3) "boldness" = parresia = "The freedom and liberty from fear to speak frankly what one believes or thinks", "fearless candour"

B. "By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" Vs. 30

- 1) "stretching" = ekteino = "to extend", "stretch out"
- 2) "heal" = eis = unto, for + iasis = "healing"
- 3) "signs" = semeion = "a designation"
- 4) "wonder" = teras = "a supernatural product"
- 5) "child" = pais = "servant son"

IV. One's Own Company and the Filling of the Holy Spirit Vs. 31

A. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together;"

- 1) "prayed" = deomai = "to need", "to want", "to make known one's need", "urgently request"
- 2) "place" = topos = "a spot", "a particular place"
- 3) "shaken" = saleuo = "to move to and fro"
- 4) "assembled" = sunago = "to bring together"

- B. "and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness"
- 1) What is it to be filled with the Holy Ghost?
 - 2) "they spake" #1
 - 3) "the word of God" #2
 - 4) "with boldness" #3

V. We Are a Company of Believers

A. We are litterly,"birds of a feather"

- 1) There is no other explanation
- 2) Mutual understanding and love for the Word of God and truth

B. The greater the love the greater the bond

- 1) This will determine our, "whereabouts"
- 2) This will determine our, "whatabouts"
- 3) This will determine our, "whoabouts"