"WHAT SHALL WE DO TO THESE MEN?"

ACTS 4:13-22

Introduction:

A. Peter and John have been brought before the council for, "investigation"
   1) Vs. 7......"By what Power, by what name?"
   2) Vs. 9......"By what means"

B. Peter and John defended themselves, "boldly"
   1) Vs. 10, 11, 12 (this is the boldness of Vs. 13)
   2) They were not intimidated by authority
   3) These are "men" but men "full" of the Holy Spirit

I. The Boldness of Peter and John   Vs. 13

A. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived
   that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled;"
   1) "boldness" = parresia = "the speaking of all one thinks. Freedom or
      frankness of speaking", "fearless candour"
   2) "perceived" = katalabomenoi = "to grasp, to get hold of with the mind"
   3) "unlearned" = agrammatos = "unable to write", Here it means the lack
      of rabbinic training.
   4) "ignorant" = idiótes = (idiot) "unskilled", "one who is not an expert",
      "a commoner"
   5) "marvelled" = thaumazo = "to recognize", "to realize", "insight"

B. "and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus"
   1) "knowledge" = epigíuosko = "to notice attentively", "to know full well"
   2) "and now they realized that these men had been the companions
      of Jesus"

II. The Undeniable Evidence   Vs. 14

A. "And beholding the man which was healed standing with them,"
   1) "beholding" = blepo = "the act of seeing"
2) "healed" = therapeuo = "to treat medically"
3) "standing" = "stand fast", This man was "standing fast" at their side!

B. "they could say nothing against it"
   1) "they could find no effective reply"
   2) such a state never lasts long!

III. The Conferring of the Council    Vs. 15-18

A. The exclusion of the accused    Vs. 15
   1) "commanded" = keleuo = "to order"
   2) "conferred" = sumballo = "to strike or come together, as streams",
       "consult together"

B. The dilemma of the confused    Vs. 16
   1) "what shall we do to these men?"
   2) They had found them guilty!
   3) "notable" = gnostos = "known of all"
   4) "miracle" = semeion = "a sign" "the signs by which Christ or His
       followers might be identified"
   5) "manifest" = thaneros = "apparent", "visible"
   6) "deny" = arneomai = "to disown", "to say no"

C. An instance of "damage control"    Vs. 17
   1) "spread" = dianemo = "to divide into portions", "to distribute"
   2) "threaten" = apeileo = "threaten with a threat"

D. The command of the council    Vs. 18
   1) "commanded" = paraggello = "give orders"
   2) "speak" = phtheggomai = "to emit sound"
   3) "at all" = katholou = "at all"
   4) "teach" = didasko = "to give instruction or direction", "to teach"
IV. The Reply of Peter and John Vs. 19-20

A. "But Peter and John answered and said unto them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye" Vs. 19

1) "answered" = apokrinomai = "to give a judicial answer", "to answer a charge"
2) "right" = dikaios = "just", "as it should be"
3) "sight" = enopion = "in the sight or the presence of"
4) "Judge ye" = krino = "come to a decision"

B. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" Vs. 20

1) "we cannot possibly give up speaking"
2) "seen" = eidon = "to see", implies perception
3) "heard" = akouo = "to hear", "perception"
4) "ears to hear and eyes to see"

V. The Action of Religious Cowards Vs. 21-22

A. The acts of a cowardly council

1) "further threaten = prosapeileio = "in addition to the previous threats" = "repeated the caution"
2) "they let them go" = "released them"

B. Why did they let them go? Vs. 21

1) They could find no cause for punishment
2) They feared, "the people"
3) The people, "glorified God"
4) The age of the man Vs. 22
5) "Punish" = kolazo = "to curtail", "dock", "prune", "to keep within check"
VI. The Question We Face Today

A. Our position is one of reversal
   1) Everyone is speaking in the name of Jesus!
   2) The Pope, the homosexuals, the politicians, the famous, the infamous
   3) His name is spoken everywhere!

B. We must speak the truth about Jesus!
   1) It is not that they have not heard His name but His name has been
      joined every kind of shady deed and sinful act.
   2) We must "live down", the image the world has presented