

Life in the Son
Acts 4:1-20

Getting Started

- ❖ What are common objections you experience when it comes to Jesus, his identity, and the resurrection?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Disturbance of the Peace (v.1-4)
2. The Resurrection on Trial (v.5-10)
3. The Exclusivity of the Cornerstone (v.11-12)
4. The Sovereign "Must" (v.13-20)

Digging Deeper (Read the sermon text again and discuss the following questions.)

- Read Acts 4:1-3. The Sadducees were "greatly annoyed" by the preaching of the resurrection. In our modern context, what aspects of the Easter message do people find most "annoying" or offensive? Why does the idea of a physical resurrection still cause a "disturbance" in secular thought today?
- The sermon mentioned that the authorities couldn't produce a body to stop the movement. If you were talking to a skeptic, how would you explain the significance of the disciples' sudden transition from hiding in fear (on Friday) to preaching with boldness (on Pentecost)?
- Read Acts 4:11 and Psalm 118:22. Peter calls Jesus the "stone the builders rejected." In what ways does our modern culture—or even our own hearts—try to "build" a life or a society while rejecting the Cornerstone? What happens to the "building" when the foundation is wrong?
- Acts 4:12 is the "seminal verse" of this text. In a world that prizes pluralism (the idea that all paths lead to God), why is the claim that salvation is found in "no one else" so vital to the Christian faith? How do we hold this exclusive truth with inclusive love toward our neighbors?
- From a Reformed perspective, why is it necessary that Jesus be both fully God and fully man to achieve our salvation? If we could save ourselves through good works or sincerity, how would that diminish the glory of what happened on Easter morning?
- The Sanhedrin noted that Peter and John were "uneducated, common men" but recognized they had "been with Jesus" (v. 13). What are the "marks" of someone who has truly encountered the risen Christ? How should "having been with Jesus" change the way we handle stress, conflict, or suffering this week?

Apply It!

- ❖ The sermon discussed the "divine must" (*dei*) in verse 12. Discuss the balance between God's sovereign plan (Acts 4:27-28) and our responsibility to respond to the Gospel. How does knowing that God is in control of even "rejected stones" give you peace in your current circumstances?
- ❖ In verse 20, Peter and John say, "*we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.*" What prevents us from having that same "holy compulsion" to share our faith?

Life in the Son
Acts 4:1-20

How can we pray for one another this week to have a "boldness" that is fueled by the Holy Spirit rather than just our own personality?

- ❖ Closing Prayer Focus. Spend time together in prayer focusing on the following:
 - Adoration: Praise God for the "Stone" that became the Cornerstone.
 - Confession: Confess areas where we have sought "other names" or other foundations for our security.
 - Supplication: Ask the Holy Spirit to give the group opportunities this week to testify to the life found only in Jesus.

Think About It!

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. (CS Lewis, Mere Christianity)