**Sermon Notes for February 14, 2021**

**Text: Acts 4:1-22**

**Title: Revolution or Revelation**

**Review:**

Jesus has ascended, the Holy Spirit has come, Peter explains and shares the Gospel, 3K are added, fellowship of new believers – everything in common, Peter and John encounter a man crippled from birth, Peter heals him in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Peter speaks to the crowd:

**Proclamation:**

**Acts 3: 12, 16 - 12)” …Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? 16) By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is in Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. “**

Fulfilled prophecy – Abrahamic covenant “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you…

**Scripture Reading for today:**

**Acts 4:1-22 (NIV)**

**Acts 4:1-4**

**Resistance:**

Sanhedrin – Priests, Temple guard (supplied by Rome), Pharisees and Sadducees

Issue – Peter and John were proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead

 Differences between Pharisees and Sadducees

 Primary = Sadducees did not believe in any the resurrection from the dead

 Persecution at this time – from Jewish religious leaders (Sadducees) not from Rome

Peter and John seized and thrown into jail

Religious leaders thought they had solved the “Jesus” problem when they crucified Him…

**Result: Growth**

Number of believers grew to 5K! No small number

**Proclamation, Resistance, Result: Growth**

“I will build My Church and the gates of hell…”

Population of Jerusalem = 25 – 75K

**Looks like we’ve got ourselves a revolution!**

Beatles “You Say You Want a Revolution”

v.1

You say you want a revolution

Well, you know

We all want to change the world

v. 2

You say you got a real solution

Well, you know

We’d all love to see the plan

You ask me for a contribution

Well, you know

We’re all doing the best we can

These ideas will help us understand Peter’s next proclamation!

**Acts 4: 5-12**

**Root Issue: “By what power (authority) or what name did you do this?”**

**Response: “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth…that this man stands before you healed”**

Unpack “Authority” = Rabbinical tradition

Taught with authority – Mt. 1:21ff – “he even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.

Sermon on the Mount – Mt. 5:21ff –You have heard… but I tell you…

 Murder Angry

 Adultery Lust

 Eye/Tooth Turn the other cheek

 Love neighbor / Love your enemies

Hate enemies

**Name**

**Philippian 2:9-10 “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit…

Jesus Christ of Nazareth – Jesus, Messiah, Anointed One… Nazareth – prophesied

Stone the builders rejected –prophesied (Ps 118:22) -corner/cap stone -Alpha/Omega,

 beginning/end

What is it about the name of Jesus that creates such controversy, anger, hostility - 1st Century, America today?

His claims: I and the Father are one, before Abraham was born I AM, If you have seen me, you’ve seen the Father, Bread of Life, Living Water…

**John 14:6 “I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through me.”**

Exclusive claims - demands you must decide, you can’t ignore

**Acts 4:12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”**

**No other name – only Jesus**

Tie into Beatles song:

Revolution – we all want to change the world – it’s broken/not as it should be.

Solution – love to see the plan – Jesus!

Contribution – all doing what we can – best we can do is filthy rags… need a Savior!

**Acts 4:13-22**

The story continues:

Religious leaders trying to figure out what just happened!

Ordinary, unschooled men…

 Courageous, bold – Note: these men had been with Jesus

What can we say/do – lame man was standing right there!

 Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they did this miracle

 We can’t deny it

 Decision – “You can no longer speak to anyone in this name”

Peter/John’s response – Obey God not man

Irony – Religious leaders would assume that they were speaking for God!

Ends with pitiful mutterings – various threats, no agreement, send them away with this warning

People – Praising God – miracle – man was over 40 years old!

Summary/Conclusion/Challenge

America/World – tension, calls for a revolution, change, freedom…etc…

Peter/John – 1st Century

Under Roman and Jewish rule

 Limited civil freedom

 No religious freedom

Yet they weren’t out to lead a revolution – overthrow the occupiers – rather they lead a revelation:

Jesus Revealed:

Jesus, crucified, buried, risen

 Mystery of the ages has now been made known

 No other name by which we are saved

 Savior of the world

**Revolution – Man’s Solution**

**Revelation – God’s Solution**

**In the name of Jesus**

**Ignited and fueled by the Holy Spirit**

**In obedience to the Father**

**With the undeniable explanation – they know Jesus**