

## Acts 4:1-18: Persecution And Being With Jesus.

### 1. 1-12: Persecution:

#### i. How do you respond to persecution or criticism?

The normal response to a miraculous experience is desire for more; however, the Jewish leaders display their indifference to human need and Jesus, they didn't want more miracles and their preaching...Mathew 5.

**John 15:20** - *"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

**8-12:** Peter, John and Jesus verses 72...Paul could've been part this council. "If you're arresting and punishing us for doing something good (people getting saved and the crippled healed) you might as well hear what you don't want to hear, it is by the crucified, resurrected and powerful Jesus, whom you reject, yet He is Lord."

**Mathew 13:9-12** - *"But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. "And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. "But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.*

More are converted amidst persecution; God and His children make a majority.

**Mathew 5:12** - *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

The death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus is the only way to heaven.

**John 14:6** - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

**Ephesians 4:4-6** - *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father...*

The Cross is the only Way to heaven and that makes it very offensive because it negates all the other Ways that men have come up with. We have to reject relativism.

**1 Corinthians 1:18** - *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

ii. **13-18: Been With Jesus?**

They had been with Jesus and were still with Jesus; there were invisible and visible evidence that they were followers of Jesus, it wasn't debatable or secret. Biblical education was done by Rabbis and was a long, selective and bureaucratic process for a select few. These guys were taught by God Himself. [Like leaking sugar and it's all over their lips].

i. **How much time do you spend with Jesus?**

**John 15:4-5** - *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

ii. **Is there enough evidence that you're a follower of Jesus?**

**Mathew 5:16** - *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

**2 Corinthians 2:15** - *For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*

**Galatians 5:22** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...*

**James 2:18** - *But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works, 20; But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 26; For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*