

# **PETER'S PROSECUTION**

## **Acts 4**

**Like Peter we should be committed to proclaiming Christ no matter the cost**

### **I. THE ARREST** (1-4)

#### **A. PETER WAS CHARGED** (1-2)

1. Approached by the Temple police (1)
2. Because the Sadducees were disturbed by his teaching in Jesus the resurrection of the dead

#### **B. PETER WAS JAILED** (3)

- Without resistance from him

#### **C. PETER WAS EFFECTIVE** (4)

- By his preaching thousands came to faith in Christ

### **II. THE QUESTIONING** (5-7)

#### **A. THE COURT** (5-6)

- The 71 member Sanhedrin > A court controlled by the Sadducees

#### **B. THE INQUIRY** (7)

1. By what power or name has "this" been done?
2. The line of questioning indicates that they may be planning to charge Peter with sorcery
  - They may be implying that Peter has done this with magic

### **III. THE TESTIMONY** (8-12)

#### **A. I'M UNDER THE INFLUENCE!** (8)

- Filled with the Spirit

#### **B. I'VE DONE NO CRIME** (9)

- Am I really on trial for making a sick man well?

C. I'M CHRIST'S WITNESS (10)

1. Clearly confessing the power of Christ
2. Clearly confronting their condemnation of Christ
3. Clearly communicating that they didn't conquer Christ

D. I REPRESENT THE ONE YOU REJECT (11)

1. Citing Psalm 118:22 that predicted this type of rejection
2. Pointing out that they rejected the One who sets the standard > The cornerstone
3. He's turned the tables and shows their guiltiness!

E. I PROCLAIM SALVATION IN CHRIST ALONE (12)

1. No other salvation
2. No other name - See John 14:6
3. No other choice > You must be saved

IV. **THE DELIBERATION** (13-17)

A. REALIZATION (13-14)

1. About the healers (13)
  - They are confident, commoners, and Christ's
2. About the healed (14)
  - He's standing and they're stupefied

B. DECISION (15-17)

1. We need a private meeting (15)
2. We can't deny the miracle (16)
3. We'll seek to silence the messengers (17)

V. **THE SENTANCING** (18-22)

A. WARNING (18)

- Seeking to totally restrict such talk ... none "at all"

B. RESPONSE (19-20)

1. We answer to a higher power (19)
  - a. Note: When government's restrictions and God's regulations collide we must yield to God
  - b. Christian civil disobedience must be clearly based on scriptural mandates
2. We cannot stop witnessing (20)

C. JUDGMENT (21-22)

1. Continued threats (21a)
2. Case dismissed (21b-22)

## VI. **THE REVIEW** (23-31)

### A. CLEAR COMMUNICATION (23)

1. With their companions
2. About the court case

### B. IMMEDIATE PRAYER (24-30)

1. Acknowledging God (24-28)
  - a. As the Captain: “O Lord” (24a)
  - b. As the Creator (24b)
  - c. As the Controller (25-28)
2. Asking God (29-30)
  - a. For boldness (29)
  - b. For blessing (30)

### C. RENEWED POWER (31)

1. Physically: They were shaken
2. Spiritually: They were Spirit-filled
3. Practically: They spoke with boldness

## **CONCLUSION:**

### ***What makes our message powerful?***

1. Being Spirit-filled (8, 31)
2. Being Christ-focused (10-12)
3. Being wholly committed (20)
4. Being prayer infused (24-30)
5. Being holy bold (31)

**May God help us to proclaim Christ no matter the cost**