



Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 60

Sunday 25th April 2021

Acts 4:5-12

4:5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,

4:6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

4:7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

4:9 if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed,

4:10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

4:11 This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

4:12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

During the weeks and months following Jesus' resurrection, things were exciting. The disciples who were shy and afraid before, were empowered and emboldened by the Holy Spirit.

Peter and John had been arrested after teaching and healing in the name of Jesus. Many people had believed. The Jewish leaders wanted to stop this new religion before it becomes too popular. So Peter and John were brought before the Jewish leaders, the custodians of the Jewish faith. It would have been so easy for Peter to have been intimidated by this. Instead when he was asked to give an account he was able to do so. Starting with who Jesus was using language they would understand and ending with salvation.

This is a lesson for us today in how to live our lives. The key to their response wasn't due to their superior schooling or intellect. It wasn't because they were leaders of large organisations or businesses, they were fishermen. It was simply that they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were not afraid or ashamed and said it how it was. Jesus who had been killed by the Jewish leaders, had been raised from

the dead. They took this opportunity to spread the good news to all that were in hearing distance.

Often we think “if only I had a large group of people to tell in a stadium or a large following on social media”. Or we may think “I am not a great speaker. I don’t have the words to say to a large group of people”. Sometimes we may be intimidated by the people we are with. It was the same with the disciples. Our struggles are not new, our doubts not unique.

Each of us has to take the opportunities that we are given to spread the good news to all that are in hearing distance. Family, friends, work colleagues under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, need to hear the good news.

Heavenly Father,
Show me who I need to speak to today and be my strength.
May my words be the words you give me.
May my heart be for you.

Amen

Ian Benjamin

God's Spirit is in my heart,
He has called me and set me apart.
This is what I have to do,
what I have to do.

He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,
Tell blind people that they can see,
And set the downtrodden free
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come,

Just as the Father sent me,
So I'm sending you out to be
My witnesses throughout the world,
The whole of the world.

Don't worry what you have to say,
Don't worry because on that day
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,
Will speak in your heart.



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