

I. Frustration  
(1-3)

a. The Anger (1-2)

1Chr 9:11; 2Chr  
31:13; Neh 11:11

b. The Arrest (3)

II. Multiplication  
(4)

III. Interrogation  
(5-22)

a. The Challenge  
(5-12)

Mark 13:9-11  
Luke 12:8-12  
Luke 21:10-19

The resurrection  
of Jesus is the  
only event that  
could explain the  
boldness of Peter  
as compared to 50  
days earlier

b. The Conference  
(13-17)

c. The Charge  
(18-22)

Satan begins his campaign against the Church (ch 4-6)

<sup>1</sup>And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly **annoyed** because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

<sup>4</sup>**But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.**

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their *rulers and elders and scribes* gathered together in Jerusalem,

<sup>6</sup>with **Annas** the high priest and **Caiaphas** and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

<sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, **"By what power or by what name did you do this?"**

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

<sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,

<sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead**—by him this man is standing before you well.

<sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was **rejected by you**, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

<sup>12</sup>And **there is salvation in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

<sup>13</sup>Now when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

<sup>14</sup>But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

<sup>15</sup>But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another,

<sup>16</sup>saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and **we cannot deny it.**

<sup>17</sup>But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name."

<sup>18</sup>So they called them and charged them **not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.**

<sup>19</sup>But Peter and John answered them, **"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,**

<sup>20</sup>for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Persecution is a normal part of being a Christian, **but...**

Opposition cannot stop the church!

The Sanhedrin; this was the highest court of the Jewish nation.

Luke 3:1-2  
John 18:12-14

Peter stands in the same place as Jesus did 50 days earlier:

-Luke 22:54-71

Psalm 118:22  
Matt 21:42

"Uneducated" - men without technical training in the professional rabbinical schools  
-John 7:15

<sup>21</sup>And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.

<sup>22</sup>For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

This man had been lame since birth...  
-Acts 3:2

**IV. Supplication**  
(23-30)

The believers recognize God's sovereignty in dealing with His enemies...

δεσπότης - Lord, Master, Absolute Ruler

Who were these "friends?"  
-v. 31

<sup>23</sup>When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

<sup>24</sup>And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "**Sovereign Lord**, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <- Psalm 146:6

They addressed God with reverence and respect, recognizing his great power  
-Acts 1:14,24

<sup>25</sup>who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <- Jews

<sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'

<sup>27</sup>—for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

<sup>28</sup>to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <- Acts 2:23

<sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,

<sup>30</sup>while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <- Acts 3:16

They prayed for boldness, not vindication  
-Rom 12:14-21

<sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

The prayer is answered immediately

<sup>32</sup>Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

Private property had not been abolished.

<sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

<sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold

<sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

However, they regarded their possessions as not for them alone but to be used for all as need required.

<sup>36</sup>Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Paul and Barnabas visited Cyprus on their first missionary journey  
-Acts 13:4

**A. The Past (25-28):**

-David wrote of it  
-Psalm 2:1-2

-Disciples witnessed it

**B. The Present (29-30)**

Their future preaching must be done in open violation of the highest court.

**V. Demonstration**  
(31)

**VI. Cooperation**  
(32-35) 2:44-45

The Apostles still managed everything  
-Acts 6:1-6

**VII. Exemplification**  
(36-37)

### Persecution

#### **Romans 8:12-17 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

### Captain of the Temple

#### **I Chron 9:11 (ESV)**

and Azariah the son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, the chief officer of the house of God;

#### **II Chron 31:13 (ESV)**

while Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eiel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers assisting Conaniah and Shimei his brother, by the appointment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the chief officer of the house of God.

#### **Nehemiah 11:11 (ESV)**

Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, ruler of the house of God,

### Saducees (and Pharisees)

#### **Matthew 22:23-33 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, <sup>24</sup> saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.' <sup>25</sup> Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup> So too the second and third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> After them all, the woman died. <sup>28</sup> In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her."

<sup>29</sup> But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." <sup>33</sup> And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

#### **Acts 23:6-10 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." <sup>7</sup> And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. <sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees

say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.<sup>9</sup> Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"<sup>10</sup> And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.

**Acts 15:5 (ESV)** - But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

### Annas & Caiphas

#### **Luke 3:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

#### **John 18:12-14 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

### Jesus and Peter – 50 Days Earlier

#### **Luke 22:54-71 (ESV)**

<sup>54</sup>Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. <sup>55</sup>And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. <sup>56</sup>Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." <sup>57</sup>But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." <sup>58</sup>And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." <sup>59</sup>And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." <sup>60</sup>But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup>And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup>And he went out and wept bitterly. <sup>63</sup>Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. <sup>64</sup>They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" <sup>65</sup>And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him. <sup>66</sup>When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, <sup>67</sup>"If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, <sup>68</sup>and if I ask you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." <sup>70</sup>So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." <sup>71</sup>Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

### Holy Spirit Giving Words During Trials

#### **Mark 13:9-11 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup>"But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup>And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

#### **Luke 12:8-12 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup>"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, <sup>9</sup>but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup>And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>11</sup>And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, <sup>12</sup>for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

#### **Luke 21:10-19 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup>There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. <sup>13</sup>This will be your opportunity to bear witness. <sup>14</sup>Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup>for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers[c] and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your lives.

### Peter's Response

**Psalm 118:22 (ESV)** - The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

#### **Matthew 21:42 (ESV)**

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

### Conference

**John 7:15 (ESV)** - The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?"

### Supplication

"Sovereign Lord" - Greek Word: δεσπότης - Transliterated Word: despotês

Definition: lord, master:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used: Lord (3), Master (3), masters (4).  
—NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary

**Acts 4:18 (ESV)** - So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 1:14, 24-26 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup>All these **with one accord** were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

<sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, "**You, Lord, who know the hearts of all**, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**Psalm 146:5-6 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;

**Psalm 2:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his anointed,

**Acts 2:23 (ESV)** - this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

**Romans 12:14-21 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Acts 3:16 (ESV)** - And his name--by faith in his name--has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

**Cooperation**

**Acts 2:44-45 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

**Acts 4:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

**Acts 6:1-6 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

**Exemplification**

**Acts 13:4 (ESV)** - So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.