

Largs Church of the Nazarene

LargsNaz Online listening guide: 22 May 2022

Acts 4 (NRSV)

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, 2 **much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead.** 3 So they

arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas

the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, 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**, 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. 11 This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the **cornerstone.**" 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.'

13 Now when they saw the **boldness (parrhesia)** of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were **amazed and recognized** them as companions of Jesus. 14 When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. 16 They said, 'What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. 17 But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.' 18 So they

called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right **in God's sight** to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; 20 for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.' 21 After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than **forty** years old.

Living Hope*

Phil Wickham; Brian Johnson

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Saviour, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain, There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion,
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory



Truth to Power (Acts 4)

- Introduction: *The Rising Church* and power

- Acts 4:1-4
 - The powers-that-be
 - Sadducees

- Acts 4:5-7
 - By what power or name?

- Acts 4: 8-10
 - sick and healed: weak and saved

- Acts 4: 11-14
 - The cornerstone
 - Boldness: *parrhesia*
 - Four characteristics
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____

- *Parrhesiastes*

- Acts 4:15-22
 - God's sight
 - 40

- Acts 4:29, 31
 - And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness (*parrhesia*)
 - When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness (*parrhesia*).

Doxology

Thomas Ken

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost