

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 4:8-21**.
- B. Peter and John were "in trouble" for doing a good deed. They had healed a sick man.
- C. They were ordered by the Council not to preach or teach anymore in the name of Jesus. But they said they could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard.
- D. They had seen and heard a resurrected X.

## I. THEY SAW HIM, IN THE FLESH, BEFORE HIS ASCENSION.

- A. All the things that Jesus said after His resurrection are true, because the resurrection is true.
- B. Jesus was bodily resurrected from the grave (Lk. 24:39).  
"See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."
- C. "Doubting Thomas" proved that Jesus had died, but is alive now and forevermore. The size of the wound in his side was big enough for the hand to feel it (Jn. 20:27,28).  
Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"
- D. Some still did not believe even after seeing Jesus after the resurrection. JC wanted to make sure the apostles did, and appeared to them in a special session (Mk. 16:14).  
And afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.
- E. Paul later writes as to how Jesus appeared to over 500 of the brethren, the apostles, and to him also (1Cor. 15:5-8).  
and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

## II. THE HEARD HIM SAY "GO PREACH."

- A. Jesus came forth from the tomb on the third day just as He had predicted (Jo. 2:19-21).
- B. There was good news to be preached. Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God (Ac. 17:31).
- C. Jesus has all authority and that He wants His gospel preached to all nations (Mt. 28:18; Mk. 16:15).  
(Mt 28:18) saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."  
(Mk 16:15) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
- D. Gospel is to be preached because Jesus fulfilled the Law and Prophets (Lk. 24:44).  
Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
- E. This message is so great, Peter and John cannot help but preach it (Ac. 4:21).  
And when they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which they might punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened;

## III. THEY HEARD HIM SPEAK OF GREAT POWER.

- A. The promise of the coming kingdom said that it would come in the apostles' lifetime and would arrive with great power (Mk. 9:1).  
And He was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."
- B. Luke's account is similar, and Jesus specifically tells the Eleven to go to Jerusalem and wait there (Lk. 24:49).  
"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

- C. And the great power came on Pentecost, the HS fell on the apostles they could speak in other world languages they had never studied. They could also work miracles (Ac. 3:6-7) and by the HS were brought into remembrance of all the truth (Jn. 16:13).  
 (Ac 3:6-7) But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-- walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.  
 (Jn 16:13) "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."
- D. The statements above were fulfilled on Pentecost (Ac. 2:1-4; Mk. 16:17,18).

#### IV. **THEY HEARD HIM SAY THERE WOULD BE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

- A. Remember again, JC has all authority; whatever He says, goes (Mt. 28:18).  
 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
- B. Jesus said that those who hear the gospel are to be baptized (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16).  
 (Mt 28:19) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,..."  
 (Mk 16:16) "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
- C. And Peter carries out the Great Commission in the very first gospel sermon (Ac. 2:38).
- D. Why so many in the religious world today leave out baptism as a requirement for the forgiveness of sins, I'll never know. Both Jesus and the apostles make it abundantly clear.
- E. The strong language of the Mk. 16:16 passage shows what happens to those who are not baptized. (If they have the right kind of belief they will be.)

#### V. **THEY HEARD HIM SAY THAT HE WOULD BE BACK AGAIN.**

- A. The greatest prophecy of the NT is that Jesus is coming back.
- B. It is a popular doctrine among the NT writers. The second coming is mentioned over 300 times, while baptism is mentioned 108 times, and the Lord's Supper only 12.
- C. At the time of His ascension, the angels announced that Jesus would return (Ac. 1:10-11).  
 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."
- D. Notice the following passages (Heb. 9:28; see 2Th. 1:6-10; 1Th. 5:1-6; 4:13-18).  
 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Peter and John, had great faith in what they saw and heard of the resurrected X.
- B. And it is the type of faith and action that cannot be stopped by men--it will be carried out.
- C. Your faith in the resurrected X should move you to action in obeying Him.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.