

**The Stone the
Builders Rejected
has Become the
Cornerstone**

Leading up to Acts Chapter 4

- Jesus' ministry, sacrificial death, and resurrection.
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and 3,000 being added to the disciples.
- The healing of a crippled man from birth.
- The Sadducees were the ruling, priestly class at this time. Jesus corrected them in His ministry.

Acts 4:1-4 (ESV) ¹ And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

The Sadducees promoted the books of Moses and rejected the rest of the Old Testament as scripture. Notice how annoyed they are at the preaching of the resurrection.

Regardless of what the religious elite teach, the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped. Peter's sermon led to the Christians growing to 5,000.

Do you stand up for Christ regardless of the crowd?

Acts 4:5-7 (NASB1995) ⁵ On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; ⁶ and Annas the high priest *was there*, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. ⁷ When they had placed them in the center, they *began to* inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"

Annas was the Jewish high priest and Caiaphas was the Roman appointed high priest and both had condemned Jesus during the illegal trials. Yet, the power of Jesus would not be stopped.

Sadly, the Roman guards had reported the resurrection happenings to these priests, but they spun the tale of Jesus' body being stolen by the disciples.

Do you recognize the voices, even today, who try to silence the work and power of Jesus?

Acts 4:8-12 (NKJV) ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,

"Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, 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 stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the

'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The same Peter who denied Jesus and feared the crowd was now filled with the Holy Spirit.

Those who were first called to build God's kingdom, rejected the Cornerstone the church is built on

In a way, we all crucified Jesus, but the chief priests persuaded Pilate to kill Him

Do you follow Christ recognizing He, alone, is the way?