Sermon Summary

As Peter and John preach in the wake of the healing of the lame man at the temple, the Jewish authorities have them arrested and detained. The next day, the whole Sanhedrin gathers and they stand before them to give an account of their actions. Two peasants from Galilee stand before the religious and academic elite of the nation...

Personal Application

Q Read v1-4. What was it about what Peter and John were saying that so bothered the Jewish authorities? Why do you think this was?

Q Do you ever find that people today are angered when you talk about Jesus? What do you think makes them angry?

Q Read v5-15. What do the Authorities want to know? What does Peter answer, and why do you think they are left speechless (v14)?

Q Why does Peter quote from Psalm 118 in v11, and how does it connect with his powerful statement in v12?

Q Read v15-22. What do the Authorities decide to do? How does Peter respond?

Q In what situations today might we need to apply the same principle that Peter does in v19-20?
**Sermon Summary**

After being interrogated and threatened by the Sanhedrin, Peter and John are released and they return to the fellowship of their brothers and sisters. Together, they bring everything before the Lord in prayer, they remind each other that God is Sovereign and they ask for courage to keep on witnessing. In this little portrait of the Jerusalem church we find guidance to help us know how we too should respond when we face opposition from the world.

**Personal Application**

**Q** Read v23-31. What is the first thing that Peter and John do when they are released? What does this tell us about how we should deal with opposition from the world? Why is being committed to the local church so important?

**Q** Where do these believers turn for help? What essential truth do they remind each other of in v24? Why is this such an important starting point?

**Q** In v25-28 they quote Psalm 2 to each other. What is this Psalm about?

**Q** How do they apply that Psalm directly to their situation in v27-28? How is Psalm 2 still relevant to us today?

**Q** What do these disciples ask for in v29-30? Why?

**Q** Does “speaking the word of God boldly” (v31) always involve preaching? What are some ways that each of us could be more courageous in speaking God’s Word?
In this section of Acts we have a second wave of attack against the church in Jerusalem. We have seen Satan at work through the Sanhedrin who sought to silence the preaching of the gospel through threats and intimidation, yet God’s people respond by listening to God rather than man, praying together and asking for even more boldness! This second wave of attack comes from within. Satan seeks to break up the unity, love and holiness of the church by filling the hearts of Ananias with envy, greed and hypocrisy.

**Personal Application**

Q Read v32-37. What characterises the Jerusalem church in these verses? What was it that made them like this? How does the way they lived challenge us today?


Q What is wrong with what they have done? (look particularly at how Peter describes their actions in v4 and v9).

Q Compare this situation with the warning given in 1 Corinthians 11:27-32. What is the essence of their sin?

Q Why do you think people say that “the church is full of hypocrites!”? In what ways does hypocrisy creep into the church, and how can we guard against it?
Date: 4th July 2021  Passage: Acts 5:12-42  Preacher: Andy Bruins

Sermon Summary

The Apostles continue to minister in the Temple complex, and their ministry draws crowds from all the towns around Jerusalem. This arouses the jealousy of the Jewish authorities and once again the Apostles are arrested and imprisoned. The second half of chapter 5 tells a wonderful little story of how an angel of the Lord sets them free and instructs them to return to their preaching! It’s a story that once again echoes the Peters response in 4:19 (cf. 5:29), that this movement and this message is from God, and it is to Him that we must listen, rather than to men.

Personal Application

Q Read v12-15. What do you think the citizens of Jerusalem made of this new movement? What does the contrast between v13 and v14 tell you?

Q Read v17-26. Why are the Apostles arrested? What does this tell you about the priorities of the high priest and his associates?

Q How does this compare with the response Jesus got in Mark 3:1-6?

Q Read v27-33. How do the Apostles respond to the Sanhedrin? How can you explain their response in v33?

Q Read v34-42. What is it about Gamaliel’s advice that you think persuades them? Is it good advice?

Q How does this story challenge us as followers of Christ today?
Date: 11th July 2021  
Passage: Acts 6:1-7  
Preacher: Andy Bruins

Sermon Summary

The church is under attack again. But this time it’s from grumbling within! This short passage shows us how the church in Jerusalem dealt with an administrative problem that was threatening to create disunity. It demonstrates that the Apostles knew that the church needed to get its priorities right, ensuring that important things didn’t get in the way of doing essential things.

Personal Application

Q Read v1-2. What was the problem? Why was it potentially a really big deal?

Q Read v3-4. What was the solution? What do these verses tell us about the care that the church took in choosing people to serve amongst them? How should this affect our view of serving?

Q What do we learn here about the priorities of the Church from day one? Do you think these priorities are still under attack today? How?

Q Read v5-7. What do we know about the men they chose? What is the significance of v6?

Q What is particularly surprising about v7? Why do you think Luke ends his account of this little incident by telling us this?

Q How can you and I play our part in making sure that the priority of our church remains “prayer and the ministry of the Word of God”?