



Acts

Lesson 4

The leaders of the Jews as well as the Romans thought He was dead. They put Him on a cross and had the soldiers pierce His side just to be sure it was final. Now, after only a short time of relative peace since the Jesus problem had been taken care of, things are stirring up once more. There hadn't even been problems from His small band of followers since He died. But now they were back and with much more power and zeal than they had before. Peter, previously afraid to even admit he knew Jesus, was now boldly telling the crowds that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. He and several of Jesus' followers were claiming to be filled with the Holy Spirit which enabled them to declare the praises of God to all the foreigners in town. Now, once again, Jerusalem was in an uproar. How could a dead man cause such a commotion? Possibly some of the religious leaders were thinking

thoughts like these by this point in Acts. The life changing power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost appears in Chapter 2 and immediately in Chapter 3. Peter and John are calling on the name of Jesus to heal a man lame since birth. When a near riot occurs in response to the miracle, Peter addresses the crowd to explain what had taken place. He not only identified Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah but accused the people of Jerusalem of disowning and murdering Him. In Chapter 4, his sermon is interrupted by the captain of the Temple guard with his soldiers led by the Sadducees. They arrest Peter and John and put them in jail. But these are changed men since Pentecost, and it would take more than threats from men to keep them quiet. Just as they offered new hope and healing to the lame man, they must speak the truth about Jesus to all who would listen.

READ ALL OF CHAPTER 4

1. *How do Matthew 22:23-24 and Acts 23:6-8 explain what is taking place in Acts 4:1-2?*

2. *Why would the healing of a lame man pose a threat to the religious leaders? See also vs. 14-17*

9. *What didn't the disciples pray for that most would think would have been their first request?*
10. *What principles about prayer can you learn from these prayers?*
11. *Why might the behaviors of vs. 32-34 be an expected response to the previous events of chapter 4?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
