

**Brookland Baptist Church**  
**Bible Study**  
**Rev. Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Pastor**  
**Rev. Dr. James A. Jamison, Facilitator**

Lecture XIII

May 11, 2022

**The Book of Acts**  
**Acts 4:27 - 37**

**Acts 4:27 -**

**27 “Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.”**

Herod was Herod Antipas, appointed by the Romans to rule over the territory of Galilee. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor over Judea who had bowed to pressure from the mob of Gentiles and the people of Israel in Jerusalem. All of these had conspired against Jesus, God’s anointed. When Jesus was brought to trial, the Jewish Council had, without concern for justice or their own laws, found a way to sentence him to death. Evil men and people still stand and gather together against God, His Messiah, and His Church, but to no avail. God’s will and purpose still marches on. He overrules all the meanness and persecution of evil men. He sees to it that the glorious message of salvation is not stopped, the Word of God is not bound. He causes it to be spread and to save all who hear and will believe.

**Acts 4:28 -**

**28 “In fact, everything they did occurred according to your eternal will and plan.”**

While it seemed that Satan had gotten the upper hand when the Son of God was crucified on the cross, in reality, everything occurred according to God’s eternal will and plan. The believers declared that God is the sovereign Lord of all events; he rules history to fulfill his purpose. What his will determines, his power carries out. No army, government, or Council can stand in God’s way.

**Acts 4:29-30 -**

**29 “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”**

**30 “Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”**

It’s interesting to take note of what they did and did not pray for; they did not pray for evil men to be destroyed, for the persecution to stop, for God to allow them to stop witnessing until things quieted down. Rather they prayed for boldness, for more courage to bear testimony, no

matter the abuse and opposition. They asked to be fearless, for God to remove their fear. The Church desperately needed its fear removed, and it wanted an act of strong courage to get about its business of witnessing. The Church was asking God to concentrate and focus on the persecution; to deal with it and to overrule the enemy; to give whatever was necessary to endure through it all.

Their need was also for power to heal, and for signs and wonders, for a demonstration of God's power to prove their claim, the claim that God's Son did come to earth, God's Son did die, God's Son did arise. And that God's Son was exalted to the right hand of God. To prove more importantly, that God's Son was still active and working in men's lives today.

**Acts 4:31 -**

**31 "After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they preached God's message with boldness."**

God's answer to the apostles' prayer was both swift and powerful. When the building shook, the believers realized that God had not only heard their prayer, but he also was pleased with it. The believers received a fresh filling with the Holy Spirit, which renewed their courage to go out and preach God's message with boldness, just as they had requested.

**Acts 4:32 -**

**32 "All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had."**

The early Church was of one heart and of one soul. The heart and the soul of the people were one. The person's whole being was one with all other believers. There was complete and total one accord, oneness, unity, harmony, and love. Surely the Church's spiritual unity (all the believers were of one heart and mind) prompted this material generosity. No one was required to contribute to the needs of others; this "communal purse" was voluntary. Yet the believers willingly shared everything they had, not holding tightly to possessions, for they felt that what they owned was not their own.

**Acts 4:33 -**

**33 "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all."**

Ignoring the threats of the Jewish ruling Council. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. As a result, the entire Church experienced much "grace." The meaning here is that they received God's favor and blessings. God worked powerfully among them to empower their witness and to meet their material needs. Jesus had told his disciples, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:35) As the outside world saw the believers' generosity with one another, their care for the needy, and their powerful witness, they were drawn to the Lord Jesus.

**Acts 4:34-35 -**

**34 “There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them”**

**35 “And brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need.”**

No one lacked. There was not “any among them that lacked” that was left in need or in want that went without. The idea is that no family, no man, no woman, no child was neglected. No one was left without the necessities of life; no one had to face a day without the food, clothing, or shelter that he needed to take care of himself or of his dear family. All of God’s dear children were taken care of. They truly loved Christ, so they were repenting of their hoarding, covetousness, and extravagant living. They were focusing upon a world that was full of desperate needs and death. They truly loved others, so they were giving all they had beyond their own necessities to help meet the world’s desperate needs.

**Acts 4:36-37 -**

**36 “For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus.”**

**37 “He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for those in need.”**

Barnabas (Joseph) is introduced here because he gave money from the sale of a field, he owned, to the apostles to give to those in need. Barnabas would prove to be a respected and important leader in the life of the early Church.

**He was important to the Church because:**

- His life is a dynamic example to all.
- He was gifted by the Spirit of God with the gift of an apostle. - (Acts 14:14)
- He was totally committed to Christ and to helping others, even to the point of selling land to help.
- He stood up and defended Paul before the early believers who feared Paul because Paul had been a spy and had persecuted the Church. - (Acts 9:26-27)
- He was sent forth by the Church to exhort believers in the first known Gentile Church, Antioch. - (Acts 11:22)
- He sought after Paul, wanting Paul to serve as his associate, and he disciplined Paul in Antioch. - (Acts 11:25-26)