
SERMON OUTLINE

With Persecution Comes Power

Acts 4:1-31

- I. The Arrest: Enduring persecution helps **draw people to Christ** (Acts 4:1-4).
 - A. The rulers put Peter and John in jail (1-3)
 - B. Many more people believed in Christ (4).

- II. The Trial: Enduring persecution brings **Spirit-filled boldness** (Acts 4:5-12).
 - A. The rulers demanded to know the source of Peter and John's power (5-7).
 - B. Filled with the Spirit, Peter explained the power came from Jesus whom they crucified (8-11).
 - C. Peter boldly proclaimed that there is no other way to be saved from sin except through Jesus Christ (12).

- III. The Ruler's Dilemma: Enduring persecution **confuses those who oppose the gospel** (Acts 4:13-22).
 - A. The rulers recognized Peter and John's courage came from being with Jesus, not from schooling (13).
 - B. Due to the people's excitement about the miracles, the rulers could only demand they stop (14-17)
 - C. Peter and John explained that they must obey God and could not stop proclaiming Christ (18-22).

- IV. The Church's Response: Enduring persecution **causes a church to worship and experience of God's power** (Acts 4:23-31).
 - A. They praised God for His power (23-28)
 - B. They asked God for greater effectiveness (29-30).
 - C. They experienced God's power and boldness (31).