



The Honeymoon Is Over!

Series: "Real Christianity: How It Flourished", Part 2 of 11

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Text: Acts 3:11-26, Acts 4:1-20

Big Idea: Both the word of God and Christian experience verify the fact that the life of a disciple is hard.

Acts 3:11, "While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade."

Acts 4:1-3, "The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day."

I. Why The Apostles Were Persecuted.

A. The gospel humbles our intellectual pride.

Acts 4:13, "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

John 7:17, "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."

Matthew 13:11b, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them."

B. The gospel highlights our personal guilt.

Acts 3:13-15a, "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead."

Acts 3:19, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

C. The gospel challenges us to accept supernatural realities.

Acts 4:1-2, “The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.”

II. How The Apostles Responded To Persecution.

A. They said there's a law above the law.

Acts 4:19, But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.”

B. They determined that they must keep bearing witness to the truth.

Acts 4:20, “For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”