

Enjoy Acts: Faith in Action

Session 2 - Jerusalem & Judea: Early Explosive Growth (Chapters 3-6:7)

Apostles Before the Council, Part 1 (Acts 4:1-22)

- The church was growing explosively because of Peter's and John's preaching
- Upon arrest Peter preaches boldly to the religious leadership
- Their boldness, lack of formal education, and impact from being with Jesus was obvious
- Warned to stop preaching, Peter and John refuse – obeying God instead

Best Prayer Meeting Ever! (Acts 4:23-31)

- Note the nature of this prayer – for boldness in the face of persecution, not protection
- God honored that prayer tremendously
- Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Apostles Before the Council, Part 2 (Acts 5:17-42)

- Temple leadership became jealous and angry at the gospel success of the church
- Arresting the apostles, an angel frees them to resume preaching
- Again, a dramatic exchange between leadership and the apostles – opposition is growing!
- The apostle *REJOICE* in getting whipped for Jesus!

Challenges of an Ethnically Diverse Church (Acts 6:1-7)

- Rapid growth revealed some inequity in ministry to different ethnic groups within the church – every church is a work in progress!
- Creating substantial friction that threatened the church
- They held a business meeting and appointed 7 from the ethnic group to lead that ministry
- Getting this right unlocked multiplicative church growth

Next Week: Samaria: Stephen & Philip – Acts 6:8-8