

## **Acts 4:1:22 Your Moment On Center Stage Feb 8 2009**

**Intro:** Albert Mohler article, “The American Experience and the Death of Evangelism.”

### **1. You may face an inquiring opposition.**

#### **Acts 4:1-7 (HCSB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now as they were speaking to the people, the priests, the commander of the temple guard, and the Sadducees confronted them,

<sup>2</sup> because they were provoked that they were teaching the people and proclaiming in the person of Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>3</sup> So they seized them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was already evening.

<sup>4</sup> But many of those who heard the message believed, and the number of the men came to about 5,000.

<sup>5</sup> The next day, their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem

<sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John and Alexander, and all the members of the high-priestly family.

<sup>7</sup> After they had Peter and John stand before them, they asked the question: “By what power or in what name have you done this?”

#### **Luke 22:66-71 (HCSB)**

<sup>66</sup> When daylight came, the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the scribes, convened and brought Him before their Sanhedrin.

<sup>67</sup> They said, “If You are the Messiah, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I do tell you, you will not believe.

<sup>68</sup> And if I ask you, you will not answer.

<sup>69</sup> But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God.”

<sup>70</sup> They all asked, “Are You, then, the Son of God?” And He said to them, “You say that I am.”

<sup>71</sup> “Why do we need any more testimony,” they said, “since we’ve heard it ourselves from His mouth?”

Reasons they investigated:

- Biblical

#### **Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (HCSB)**

<sup>1</sup> “If a prophet or someone who has dreams arises among you and proclaims a sign or wonder to you,

<sup>2</sup> and that sign or wonder he has promised you comes about, but he says, ‘Let us follow other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us worship them,’

<sup>3</sup> do not listen to that prophet’s words or to that dreamer. For the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul.

<sup>4</sup> You must follow the Lord your God and fear Him. You must keep His

commands and listen to His voice; you must worship Him and remain faithful to Him.

<sup>5</sup> That prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he has urged rebellion against the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the place of slavery, to turn you from the way the Lord your God has commanded you to walk. You must purge the evil from you.

- Theological – Sadducees and the resurrection
- Political – Crowds and rebellions

(Oliver North before Congress)

**1 Peter 3:15 (HCSB)** <sup>15</sup> but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

## **2. You can give an inspired oration.**

**Luke 12:11-12 (HCSB)**

<sup>11</sup> Whenever they bring you before synagogues and rulers and authorities, don't worry about how you should defend yourselves or what you should say.

<sup>12</sup> For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what must be said."

**Acts 4:8-14 (HCSB) (Jesus is the source, the stone, the savior)**

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders:

<sup>9</sup> If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a disabled man—by what means he was healed—

<sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing here before you healthy.

<sup>11</sup> This [Jesus] is The stone despised by you builders, who has become the cornerstone.

<sup>12</sup> There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."

<sup>13</sup> When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and knew that they had been with Jesus.

<sup>14</sup> And since they saw the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in response.

**Psalm 118:22 (HCSB)**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**Psalm 118:19-25 (HCSB)**

<sup>19</sup> Open the gates of righteousness for me; I will enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous will enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I will give thanks to You because You have answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This came from the Lord; it is wonderful in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Lord, save us! Lord, please grant us success!

### **1 Corinthians 1:22-24 (HCSB)**

<sup>22</sup> For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom,

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.

<sup>24</sup> Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is God's power and God's wisdom,

### **3. You may have to stand against an intimidating order.**

#### **Acts 4:15-22 (HCSB)**

<sup>15</sup> After they had ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves,

<sup>16</sup> saying, "What should we do with these men? For an obvious sign, evident to all who live in Jerusalem, has been done through them, and we cannot deny it!

<sup>17</sup> But so this does not spread any further among the people, let's threaten them against speaking to anyone in this name again."

<sup>18</sup> So they called for them and ordered them not to preach or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it's right in the sight of God [for us] to listen to you rather than to God, you decide;

<sup>20</sup> for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

<sup>21</sup> After threatening them further, they released them. They found no way to punish them, because the people were all giving glory to God over what had been done;

<sup>22</sup> for the man was over 40 years old on whom this sign of healing had been performed.

#### **Romans 13:1 (HCSB)**

<sup>1</sup> Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God.

#### **Ephesians 6:13 (HCSB)**

<sup>13</sup> This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

**Invitation:** Before the spotlights hit – becoming a saved, spirit-filled man or woman of God!