

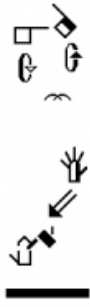
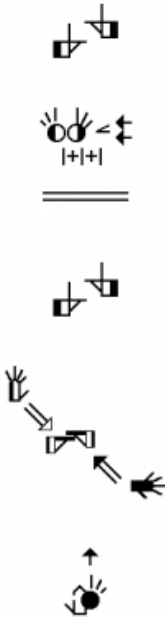
Acts 04_01-04a

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Acts 04_01-04b

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Acts 04_01-04c



THEY LAID HANDS ON THEM

Sometimes when we are doing what is right bad things happen. Peter had just preached a great soul stirring sermon and an awesome miracle was performed through him and John. They might have thought their problems were behind them; after all Jesus rose from the dead and the Holy Spirit had come.

Opposition (came upon them)

Acts 4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

However, there were powers that the disciples could not control. There were people who saw Jesus as a threat. Those who took the Scriptures literally and those who denied the miraculous united with the government and had Peter and John quickly arrested.

Teaching can cause trouble.

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

This teaching of Jesus' would undermine their authority. Why would the people need sacrifices if Jesus paid for their sins? Why would the people need priests if God made every believer a priest? If everyone could have the Holy Spirit, why would they need a temple. The Resurrection made the Jewish system obsolete.

In hold (prison)

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

The early church got to see how dedicated the Apostles were to their teaching. It was evening. Peter and John were put in prison. God was showing the church the kind of opposition it would face. He was soon to show the church His power over the plans of evil men.

Church grows

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

However, it did not matter, the truth got out. People still believed; the message could not be "muzzled." The miracle drew the crowd but the "word," the message, the gospel, the preaching convinced the people that Jesus was the truth. Five thousand men, not including women and children, believed.

The authorities laid hands on the Apostle's bodies, but Jesus laid hands on 5,000 hearts of men.

Friends, nothing on earth can be guaranteed, even if we do what is right, but when we share "The Word" people will believe and we will reap eternal rewards. God help us see "A City" **Hebrews 11:10**