

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Acts 4:13-22

We Cannot Help Speaking

Background

Read Acts 4:1-12. Write a brief summary of this passage.

Digging In

1. **Read Ac 4:13-17.** Why were the religious leaders astonished?
2. What is the significance of the last clause in v. 13: *they took note that these men had been with Jesus*?
3. Why couldn't the Sanhedrin argue that the beggar hadn't really been healed?
4. How did the Sanhedrin decide to deal with the matter? What was their motive?
5. **Read vs. 18-20.** What were the religious authorities trying to prohibit by their command in v. 18?
6. What dilemma did Peter and John create for the Sanhedrin by their response in v. 19?
7. Paraphrase the apostles' courageous statement in v. 20.
8. **Read vs. 21-22.** How did the Sanhedrin end this confrontation? Why didn't they take more severe action against the apostles?

Getting Personal

- How can we be encouraged by what we learn about the apostles in v. 13?
- What would be the application for us of *being with Jesus*?
- Can you think of a modern-day situation in which you might find it necessary to disobey human authority in order to be a faithful witness of Christ? Explain.
- How do we balance the proper role of civil disobedience with the biblical injunctions to obey governing authorities? (see Ac 4:18-20; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:16-17)
- What additional guidelines are found in the following passages: Matt 28:18-20; 1 Cor 9:16; 2 Cor 5:14-15; 1 Pet 3:15-17)

