

Acts 4:5 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes,

4:6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

4:9 "If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,

4:10 "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

4:11 "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'

4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

4:14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

4:15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

4:16 saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

4:17 "But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

4:18 And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

4:19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

4:20 "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

4:21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.

4:22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

**【From Today's Sermon】**

On the day of Pentecost, after the disciples praised God's great works in many languages, a controversy arose, and another controversy erupted following the healing at the Beautiful Gate.

Officials, elders, and scribes were summoned to Jerusalem, and the high priest and his relatives also gathered.

What will Peter say before the assembled crowd?

“They placed the apostles in the center and questioned them, ‘By what authority, or in whose name, did you do this?’”

In that solemn place, standing in the center, he might have been so tense that he lost his words, but when asked by what authority or in whose name, this was precisely the opportunity to testify to the name of Jesus and His glory.

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, ‘All of you and all the people of Israel should know this: It is by the name of Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.’” “When the people saw the boldness of Peter and John, and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed. They recognized that they had been with Jesus...”

The leaders of the people had knowledge but no authority or power. What was important was that they had been with Jesus.

Good morning, everyone. The intense heat has returned. I hope you are all doing well.

This weekend marks the beginning of August. Let us pray for each other that God will protect our health despite the heat.

Meanwhile, the events at the Beautiful Gate had repercussions, and Peter and John were imprisoned. The next day, they were brought before the leaders of the people for questioning.

4:1 While they were speaking to the people, the chief priests, the temple guards, and the Sadducees came up,

4:2 annoyed that they were teaching the people and proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus, 4:3 they seized them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was already evening.

4:4 But many who heard them believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

4:5 The next day, the rulers, the elders, and the teachers of the law gathered in Jerusalem.

4:6 Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all the other members of the high priestly family.

4:7 They had the apostles stand before them and demanded, "By what authority, or in whose name, did you do this?"

4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

Peter stands before many people and is questioned. However, Jesus had spoken of such times of protection and guidance, and in this situation, that protection was perfectly fulfilled.

Luke 12:11 When you are brought before synagogues and rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say.

12:12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.

"By what authority, or in whose name, did you do this?"

Even though God's wonderful work was happening right there, the leaders of the people were unable to immediately recognize it as God's wonderful work and praise Him. Instead, they asked by what authority and in whose name this had been done. This event is saddening. The leaders had strayed from God and were wandering like sheep without a shepherd. If the leaders were in such a state, how could the people live?

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

9:37 And He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

9:38 Therefore go and ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Looking at how these leaders listened, I am reminded of the healing of the man born blind in John 9. The leaders seem to want to say that Jesus is a fraud and that his works are deceitful, but their stubborn hearts are like eyes that are closed, unable to see anything.

John 9:15 The Pharisees also asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "He is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinner perform such a sign?" And there was a division among them.

9:17 So they asked the blind man again, "What do you say about the man who opened your eyes?" He said, "I think he is a prophet."

9:18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight. So they called the man who had been blind and asked him,

9:19 "Is this the man you call our son, who was born blind? How is it that he now sees?"

9:20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.

9:21 But we don't know how he got his sight, or who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself."

9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already decided that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue.

9:23 That was why his parents said, "He is your brother; ask him if you want to know how he got his sight."

9:24 So they called the blind man again and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that he is a sinner."

9:25 He answered, "I don't know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know is that I was blind, and now I see."

9:26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

9:27 He answered, "I already told you, and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

9:28 They reviled him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

9:29 We know that God spoke to Moses, But we don't know where this man comes from."

9:30 He answered, "How strange! You opened my eyes, and yet you don't know where the man is from.

9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to those who honor him and do his will.

9:32 We have never heard of anyone since the world began who opened the eyes of a person born blind.

9:33 If this man were not from God, he could not have done anything."

9:34 When they heard this, they said to him, "You were born in sin, and yet you are trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

9:35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

9:36 He answered, "Who is he, sir? We want to believe in him."

9:37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."

9:38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and worshiped Jesus.

9:39 Jesus said, "I came into the world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

9:40 Some of the Pharisees who were with Jesus heard this and said to him, “Are we also blind?”

9:41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

4:7 And he set the apostles in the midst of them and asked, “By what authority, or in whose name, have you done this?”

4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, “Rulers of the people and elders,

4:9 If we are being questioned today about a good deed done to a sick man, or about how he was healed,

4:10 then all of you and all the people of Israel should know this. This man stands here before you, healed by the name of Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

At this moment, in spiritual darkness, Peter speaks to the leaders about the name and authority in which we can truly cling and find salvation. This is the most important teaching for all people. It is the only knowledge we need to know.

Why were Peter and the others being interrogated like criminals? It was because of the good deeds they had done for the sick and how this man had been healed.

What does it mean to be noticed for doing good deeds and healing people? However, those good deeds—the very deeds that the leaders should have done—were impossible for the leaders of that dark age to accomplish. They had lost the power, faith, and compassion to do what they should have done. Instead of humbly kneeling before those who could accomplish what they should have done and seeking instruction about their authority and their name, their pride would not allow it. Their arrogance increased, as did their indifference toward the suffering people, but there was no pain in their hearts. What was in their hearts was jealousy, and they were eager to use their authority to extinguish the fires of the wicked.

The Holy Spirit works against the darkness of such leaders of the people.

4:8 At that moment, Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, “Rulers and elders of the people,

4:9 if we are being questioned today about the good deed done to a sick man, and how he was healed,

4:10 then all of you and all the people of Israel should know this. This man stands here before you, healed by the name of Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

When they heard this, they were cut to the heart and thousands of them repented and believed in Jesus. How will the leaders respond to the salvation of Jesus, the distant descendant and special descendant of whom Joel spoke, David spoke, Moses spoke, and Abraham heard?

4:11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, but it has become the cornerstone.

4:12 There is no salvation in anyone else. For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

4:13 When the people saw the boldness of Peter and John, and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were astonished. They recognized that they had been with Jesus,

4:14 and seeing the men who had been healed standing there, they had nothing to say to them.

Peter and John spoke boldly. They were so bold that the leaders were astonished. And the leaders were amazed that Peter and John were uneducated, ordinary people. But what about the leaders? Did their learning, their education, their knowledge save people? How much did their long robes, their long prayers, their fasting save people? Was it not just self-satisfaction?

Matthew 6:1 Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before others to be seen by them. If you do, you will not receive your reward from your Father in heaven.

6:2 So when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your left hand does not see what your right hand is doing. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

6:3 When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.

6:4 So your giving will be in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

6:5 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. I tell you the truth, they have already received their reward.

6:6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

6:16 And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, who show their faces to others to be seen as fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward.

6:17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,

6:18 Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your left hand may not boast to your right hand.

6:19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths destroy and rust corrodes, and where thieves break in and steal.

6:20 Instead, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in to steal.

6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

6:22 The eye is the lamp of the body. Therefore, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.

6:23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 23:1 At that time Jesus spoke to the crowds and said to them,

23:2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses.

23:3 Therefore, do everything they tell you, but do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

23:4 They tie up heavy loads and place them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to help.

23:5 They do all these things for show. They make their phylacteries wide and their tassels long.

23:6 They love places of honor at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues.

23:7 They love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi.'

23:8 But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers.

23:9 And call no one on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

23:10 And no one is to be called 'leader,' for you have one leader, who is the Christ.

23:11 So you also must be like him in all things.

23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

23:13 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow those who want to enter to do so.

23:14 [You hypocritical teachers of the law, Pharisees! You are doomed! You devour widows' houses and make long prayers to show off. You will be punished more severely.

23:15 You hypocritical teachers of the law, Pharisees! You are wretched. You travel over land and sea to make one proselyte, and when you have made him one, you make him twice as

much a child of hell as yourselves.

23:24 Blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

23:25 Hypocritical scribes and Pharisees! You are woeful. You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

23:26 Blind Pharisees! First clean the inside of the cup, and then the outside will also be clean.

23:27 You hypocritical teachers of the law, Pharisees! You are woeful. You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

23:28 In the same way, you also appear righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

But these are all the sins of men. There are no exceptions. All people are unrighteous. All people have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But Jesus came to cleanse us of our unrighteousness. There is no other way of salvation except through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

4:12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

This is exactly what it says.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

4:13 When the people saw the boldness of Peter and John, and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were astonished. They recognized that they had been with Jesus,

4:14 and they saw the men who had been healed standing there. They had no answer to what had happened to them.

It is because we are with Jesus that we are filled with boldness, grace, and love, and are able



to strive for good works, bringing joy, healing, and salvation to this earth. It is Jesus who is with us who teaches us this and accomplishes it. Even uneducated, ordinary people can perform remarkable works that surpass those of leaders because they have seen Jesus and heard from Him.

4:15 So they ordered the two men to leave the council and continued their discussion among themselves.

4:16 They said, "What should we do with these men? Everyone in Jerusalem knows that miraculous signs have been performed by them, and we cannot deny it.

4:17 But let us warn them not to say anything to the people in this name, lest this thing of ours becomes more widely known among all the people."

4:18 So they called them in and commanded them not to speak a word to anyone who would ask them about this miracle that had been done in Jesus' name.

4:19 Peter and John replied, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge for yourselves.

4:20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

We have learned more and more about Jesus from the Bible, and we have been allowed to be with him, so we cannot help but speak about what we have seen and heard.

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father, we thank you for today's worship service. Even though Peter was an uneducated man, what made him bold was that he was with Jesus. "You all, and all the people of Israel, should know this: It is by the name of Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Thank you for this powerful testimony. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus.**