



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Peter, Preaching Jesus' Resurrection

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

Bob Bradley

The Lord has laid these scriptures on our heart tonight; we want to talk about for a few moments this evening with Him being our helper. The book of Acts 4, beginning in verse 1.

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

Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

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

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

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

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

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

This story, this portion of scripture, is following the fellow that has been healed. He sat at the gate, beautiful gate, of the temple. Remember the story? Peter and John going into the temple, being the ninth hour of the day. They were going up to pray. We know

that as they were going in the guy asked an alms, asked for some money. Peter and John said, "Hey, we don't have any money, but such as we have then give I thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk." You remember that story. Do you not? That happened right before this. The Bible tells us that this guy leaping up, stood. He walks and leaps praising God. He goes into the temple and runs around. Just a lot of great things are happening. You would have thought that it would have been just a great time for everybody. It would have been a great time for the religious leaders. But it was not.

Let me back up just a second, and say—where they were at; they were in the court of the Gentiles. If you do a little bit of studying, the gates that went in—the beautiful gate, and other gates—that went in from the outside to the inside. There was a court of the Gentiles, a court of the women, a court of the Israelites. You went into the holy place and the most holy place. There were different courts that you were allowed to go in. if you were a Gentile, you could not go past the first wall. If you went past there they would kill you. This is where this was taking place. That is where the miracle took place. We know that there were thousands and thousands...of people in this area. The temple itself, inside the wall—if my memory serves me correctly—is seven to nine acres. So, it is a big place.

However, inside the court of the Gentiles here, there were thousands of people. We know that because of what I just read to you here. There were thousands and thousands of people there. Every day, no doubt, and maybe twice a day, a lot of these people would walk past this guy that sat at the gate that was begging. He could not walk. He could not do anything to help himself. They walked past him every day as they were going into the house of God to worship, pray, give an offering to be made. However, they walked past this guy every day. Something happened just prior to this. He gets healed. The right people walk through the gate. The right people. We know he is over 40 years old because the Bible tells us he was. I don't know how long he sat here. I don't have any idea. I don't have any...but the right people walked through the gate this day.

I really believe in that. I really believe that timing is everything in our life. I have said this many times. There is a time that we can do things when God is leading us, when God is blessing us, when God is directing us to do things; there is a time to do that. Do you know what? That is when we need to do it. However, if God is not leading us then we need to leave it alone. Timing means everything.

However, here two guys are; Peter and John. Get this. Remember this. This is the same Peter, the same Peter that probably 8 weeks before—we know that Pentecost has happened. Pentecost is 50 days after Passover. Therefore, we know that 50 days have passed. Therefore, probably 8 weeks after Jesus has died, these events are taking place. Okay? Seven or eight weeks before, the guy that is going to be used of Almighty God, in a great way, the same guy, the same dude, is the same guy that stood by fire... I thought about this. Get this. He stood by a fire with Jesus' enemies, warming himself. Do you remember reading that? He stood by fire, where Jesus'

enemies were standing, warming himself. They questioned him. "Hey, you are one of His disciples?" He said, "Nope, I'm not one of His disciples. Not me." A little girl comes down and says, "Hey, we know you are because your speech betrays you." He says, "Nope. Not me. I don't even know this guy." The Bible says that they asked him the third time. He begins to curse and to swear. He says, "Hey, I don't know this guy." This is the same dude; the same guy.

Do you know what we need to do? We need to forget about that we are not worthy, because we really are. Do you know why we are worthy? Do you know what makes us worthy? Jesus Christ. We are not worthy of His grace. We are not worthy of His mercy. However, when we say, yes to the Lord Jesus Christ; He opens up the storehouse of heaven and He has a whole storehouse that He wants to bless us with. Amen! Not that we can work for salvation, not that we are good enough for salvation. No. It is because He loves us. He doesn't love us because we have something we can offer Him. He does not love us because we are intelligent, or we look good, or we have a nice home or car. He doesn't love us because of what we put in the offering plate. He simply just loves us. He wants to bless us. Does everybody get that?

The same guy here is preaching. We know...he preaches and 3,000 souls get saved. We know that. Don't we?

The next scripture we read, in chapter 3; he goes in the temple; this guy is healed. That is a pretty good start. Don't you think? Amen! Just 7 or 8 weeks before this was the same guy that denied even knowing Him, yet now something has changed.

He had to do some repenting, when we read John 21. We understand that. We know he has done some repenting. He has been forgiven. He has been cleansed. He is ready to go. However, when Pentecost came; something happened.

These men that were just ordinary men, people that loved Jesus, people that recognized Jesus as Messiah. They were baptized with the Holy Ghost. Amen! The Holy Ghost came on the inside. The real third part of the Trinity, the third part of the Trinity came down and indwelled men, like me and you. Do you know what that should make us do? That should make us want to shout because if we are saved today, we are indwelled with the same spirit that came down at Pentecost. Amen! He is here. If He is not there then you are not saved.

That is not being judgmental. That is just the truth. Living for the Lord is fun. Living for the Lord is great. Living for the Lord is wonderful.

Peter and John just had a great day. They saw the Lord heal a guy that was over 40 years old that was laying there. He couldn't walk. That is the start of a good afternoon. Don't you think? It is 3:00 in the afternoon when this happened. That is a pretty good start to an afternoon. Don't you think? That is not the end of things though.

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

Peter and John are speaking and preaching. Get this.

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

As they were preaching unto the people, the Bible says the captain of the temple, the priests and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came unto them. Here they are preaching. Preaching. The power of God is there. Here comes the priest. Somebody that should have been elated that a guy here that had been—all these years—couldn't walk, now he is walking among thousands and praising God. Yet the priest is all torn up. Amen!

It mentions here the captain of the temple. The captain of the temple was the chief of staff for the priest. He was the dude that was in charge of order in the temple. If you got out of line in the temple; he was the one that would come lead you out. He was the one that was responsible for order. If there was disorder, he was the guy that you were going to see. All the uproar that is going on—not only did a priest come but he brought some reinforcements. The priest wasn't going to do anything. He was probably too big of a coward. I would imagine.

What I read here indicates some things. Anyway, not only did the priest come, the captain of the temple, but also the Sadducees came. When you look at the group that came, when you look at the group that came these were very religious people. They were people, when you read on down through the story that made up part of the Sanhedrin. There were 71 or 72 members that sat on the Supreme Court in Israel. They were the governing body of Israel. They were made up of scribes and Pharisees. They were made up of Sadducees, elders. They were made up of different groups of people but these were the upper echelon people. These were the people that should have been in the know as far as spiritual go. These were the people that should have had a great relationship with the God of heaven. They should have, but they did not have.

Now the priest came. He did not give Peter and John permission to preach in there. Again, he brought his captain with him. But the Sadducees came. Do you know why they came? Get this. Do you know why the Sadducees were so upset at the preaching of Peter and John? They were preaching that Jesus Christ was alive. Do you know what the Sadducees knew? No doubt some of these that were in the crowd here on this day was there when they saw Him die, when they put Him in the tomb. Now they are preaching that He is alive. Do you know what that means? That means that there is a resurrection. The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection. They did not believe that. They believed in angels but they did not believe in a resurrection. So that is why they came.

Here they come. I don't know how many of them there were. I don't have any idea how many of them there were. There were two little guys—fishermen—Peter and John were.

I am going to tell you something. I don't know these guys but as I read about these fellows in the scriptures; these were guys that if you really, after the Holy Ghost came, these were guys that if you needed somebody to have your back; these guys would have had your back. Amen!

Listen. They are standing here in jeopardy of their own lives. They are preaching. They are in the temple. They are preaching here that Jesus is alive. They are preaching this message under the religious crowd that actually killed Him. However, do you know what they do? They continued to preach.

Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

That is why they are so upset. That is why they are so upset that Peter is preaching the resurrection from the dead though Jesus Christ.

I appreciate preaching like that. Don't you? We need preaching like that because...there is a resurrection. Do you know why? It is because Jesus Christ got up from the dead. Amen! It is because He got up from the dead. He was raised from the dead but the power of Almighty God. Since He arose from the dead, thank God, one day we will be raised, if we are in the grave from the dead. If we are here we will be raised up to meet them...in the air. We are going to be raised. Amen!

They were grieved. They were torn up. They are preaching here, Hey, Jesus is alive. The crowd here hated it.

Acts 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

The events here happened in 3:00 in the afternoon when the guy got healed, or somewhere around that time. Now it is evening time. It is too late in the evening to get the Sanhedrin together. So, they arrest Peter and John and put them in jail. The persecution has begun. Amen!

Don't ever think that the enemy is going to sit by when God is blessing and saving and doing some great things. Don't ever think that the enemy is going to sit by and do nothing because he is going to be on the job. He will use my family. He will use your family. Amen! Do you know how I know that? It has happened. I know that. If he can use my family to destroy me; he will do it. If I let him use my family to destroy me. Amen! That has happened.

Many years ago, when I first started. God was blessing. We were going every place preaching. Do you know what? I had to have a meeting with my family. They called me in. They were part of the conference. They were the religious crowd. They did not like what I was preaching. They did not like my attitude. They could not control me. They thought, you are going to be here and you are going to do what we tell you to. It doesn't work that way. Do you know what they said? We want your credentials. Do

you know what I did? I gave them to them. Truth! Do you know why? Do you know what I knew then? I knew that God had better things. Amen! God had better things.

It took me a year or two to get over that. It took me a year or two where I could pray for those that tried to destroy me. Amen! It did. However, I got to the place where I could pray for them and ask God to bless them. I could love them just like they had never did me wrong. Amen!

Peter and John are preaching. They lay hands on them. They put them in jail. The next verse says this. Get this.

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

That is a pretty good service. Don't you think? There was enough preaching on this afternoon that 5000 men were saved. Get this. Persecution and opposition can only stop the gospel when we allow it. Persecution and opposition can only stop God working in our lives when you allow it. When persecution and opposition and these come; do you know what we should do? Do you know what it does to a genuine born-again Christian? It drives them to their knees more. They pray more. They read more. They study more. They get closer to God. Amen! That is what we should do.

The Bible says here that 5000 men. Opposition does not stop the gospel. Get this. Opposition does not hurt the church. Do you know what happens when persecution and opposition came? When you read with Saul and what he with Stephen and how he held all of the coats? Do you know what happens when opposition came? The gospel was spread. Do you know what happens? People gets saved. Get his.

Satan, even though he knows this; he will never stop trying to destroy the church of Jesus Christ. Opposition won't do it. Opposition from the outside won't do it. What satan tries to do is get on the inside. That is where the issue comes in at; when it gets on the inside. Here they are. The gospel is preached and 5000 people gets saved.

The Bible says the rulers, the elders, and the scribes—get this. Annas, do you remember him? He was the first one that Jesus went to the night that He was betrayed. Annas had been the high priest. He had still yet had the influence of the high priest. He is Caiaphas' father-in-law. Okay?

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

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

I don't know who this John is. The Bible does not tell me. I don't know anything about him. Alexander, I don't have any idea who this guy is. This is the only time you will read these guys here.

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

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

You talk about a mob. You talk about a bunch of thugs. This was them. You had Caiaphas. You had Annas. You had all the kindred of the high priest, those that were descendants of Aaron that were all male were a part of the high priest's family. Okay? There were all kinds of them there. The elders were there. The scribes were there. There were a whole gang of them there. Two guys preaching about Jesus got them so upset.

Do you know what? The devil hates the preaching of Jesus. Get this. The devil hates the preaching of the resurrection from the dead. We live in a world today with no hope. When they hear that there is hope beyond the grave, do you know what some of them are going to do? Some of them are going to believe that. Some people are going to believe that there is hope beyond this life. That hope is in Jesus Christ. Some people are going to believe that. That is why the enemy hates us so much. He hates the name of Jesus. He hates the Word of God. He hates you preaching, teaching and talking about hope beyond the grave. Do you know why? It is because he does not have any. Satan has free reign today. Do you know what Calvin Evans used to tell me every time I saw, the old man? I would ask him how he is doing. He would say, "Preacher, I'm fighting the devil every day." Do you know what? I did not understand that at the time. However, a few years passed then I knew exactly what he was talking about.

As long as the church of Jesus Christ, all the born-again is going to be in heaven praising the God of heaven and being in service to the God of heaven and we are going to be in service to Him. When we get to heaven, listen. We are not just going to be sitting by the river fishing every day. We are going to be worshiping and serving a real God. We are going to have some things to do. However, as long as we are there and that is eternity; satan, lucifer is going to be in a lake of fire and he is going to be burning day and night forever and forever. Do you know what I say? Hallelujah to the Lamb of God! Amen!

There is going to be a day that he is not going to bother me no more. There is going to be a day that he is not going to tempt you anymore. There is going to be a day, my friend that it all is going to be over. We are going to be in the presence of Almighty God. Satan is not going to be there. He had better get his shots in today because I may not be here tomorrow. Amen! Or you may not either.

The whole gang is here. They are all here.

Get this.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Get this. Do you know what the word *filled* means? It means controlled by.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

I like when preachers are controlled by the Holy Ghost. Don't you? I like that. Do you know why? That shows me that they are listening to the voice of Almighty God. I like it when people get up and sings, testifies, and the Spirit of Almighty God blesses. The Spirit of God adds His blessing on what is going on. I like that. Don't you? That lets us know that He is alive, that we are alive. What we are doing is pleasing to Him.

Do you know why so many churches are dead today? Because what they are doing God is not pleased with. Do you know why so many Christian people are dead in a relationship with God today? Because their lives are not pleasing to God. Amen! Like it or lump it. That is truth.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

They asked the question back up here; we want to know by what power you did this? We want to know by what name you did this. We want to know. Give us an answer. The answer they got they did not want to hear.

Get this.

Do you know why they looked at this miracle—as you go back in the gospels and read—why that the religious leaders looked at the miracles of Jesus as being done by Beelzebub, or through the power of satan. Do you know why? Get this. They thought that if God was going to do anything that it had to be through them. That is why when they looked at people being raised from the dead and people being healed and this guy being healed; they thought this guy could not be genuine. They thought if God is going to do something like this then He would do it through us. They had a vastly inflated opinion about themselves. You could not convince them that they were demonic themselves. You could not convince them that they had no relationship with God. You could not convince them that if they did not repent they were going to go to hell. You would have been wasting your time. They were religious. They had a position. They went to church. They went to a church all of their lives. You could not convince them that they were demonic. You could not convince them that they were controlled by satan. You could not convince them of that.

In our own world today, people are the same way. They are controlled by satan. They are demonic. They are infested with unclean spirits. That should get your attention. It is true. It is real.

Do you know what happens? The Bible says...if you guys are questioning us by what and how this guy that was healed, how he was healed; we want to tell you. We had nothing to do with it, first of all. This guy was healed...

Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

It is by Jesus. The guy that you guys crucified 7 or 8 weeks ago. The guy that you nailed to a cross. The guy that you said was demonic. They guy that you said could not be the Messiah, the guy that you guys hated. God raised Him from the dead and it was through His name and the power that is in His name that this impotent, weak individual that could not walk has been made whole. Amen!

When you got saved, do you know who did not save you? The Baptists did not save you. Religion did not save you. The preacher that was there did not save you. If you got saved you got saved by the same one that touched this guy that was sitting at the beautiful gate this day and healed; you were touched by the same individual, by the same God. His name is Jesus Christ. Through His name—get this—there is power.

Why that our world does not want the name of Jesus mentioned in our schools, in our businesses, in our governments, at graduations, at football games; they hate the name of Jesus. You can mention Mohammad if you want to. You can go downtown and stand on the courthouse and pray till dark tomorrow and nobody would say a word to you. They would say that guy is crazy. But you start mentioning the name of Jesus, start raising your hand and praising the name of Jesus; do you know what they would be doing? They would be calling Jeff. Come out and check on this guy. There is something bad wrong with him. He is out here talking about this guy called Jesus.

Listen. He is alive.

Peter and John wanted this crowd to know that He is alive. It was through His name and by the power that is in His name that he was touched. God raised Jesus from the dead and Jesus is the One that cured this guy.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Do you know what he says? Hey, you guys rejected Him. This is the stone. This is the part of God's plan, God building that you guys rejected. You guys set Him at naught. You guys despised Him. However, God has made Him the chief cornerstone. God has made Him the part, the rock, the stone that holds the whole building together. Amen! It is all on Jesus.

He is the One that holds the church together. Amen! It is not me. It is not you. It is not a group of us. What holds the saints of God together is Jesus Christ. He is the chief corner stone tonight. If you don't know Him I would encourage you to get right with Him. He is a great Savior. He loves you. He wants to bless you. He wants to do great things in your life. Come. Pray, seek the face of God. Call upon Him while He is near.

Come and pray—