

They Had Been With Jesus (Part 1)

And as they spake unto the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, (2) being sore troubled because they taught the people, and proclaimed in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. (3) And they laid hands on them, and put them in ward unto the morrow: for it was now eventide. (4) But many of them that heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. (5) And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; (6) and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest. (7) And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, By what power, or in what name, have ye done this? (8) Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders, (9) if we this day are examined concerning a good deed done to an impotent man, by what means this man is made whole; (10) be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even in him doth this man stand here before you whole. (11) He is the stone which was set at nought of you the builders, which was made the head of the corner. (12) And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved. (13) Now when they beheld the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:1-13 asv)

On this particular day in the city of Jerusalem, the rulers, elders and scribes faced two uneducated and ordinary men that stood up to them in a very bold and powerful way (vs. 13). The religious leaders were perplexed because they knew that these two men had NOT followed the typical path of religious development and schooling that the world respected. Even so, they noticed something unique about Peter and John...something that set them apart from all others...something that made these religious leaders marvel. What was it that they took note of? These two men were followers of Jesus...*they had been with Him*. After spending a night in jail, Peter and John gave evidence that they had seen the Christ, been with Him, heard Him, and were convinced that He was the Messiah (*That which was from the*

beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we beheld, and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life. 1 John 1:1)

Please understand...Jesus, by His example and teaching, had radically changed these men. You see, they did not always behave in the manner we read about on this occasion. They often failed their Lord and thus gave their opponents opportunity to cast doubt (Luke 9:37-41). Why did they fail? The same reason we fail...unbelief or as another translation puts it, "little faith" (*Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. Matt. 17:19-20*) These men were like so many of us today in that they were slow to learn and overcome their prejudices (Luke 9:43-46), they battled with pride (Luke 9:47-48), and they easily got angry and too often acted unmercifully (Luke 9:51-55)

The Bible teaches that these average, ordinary men spent about 3 years with Jesus during His earthly ministry. What did this experience do for them? What did it teach them? What can we learn from what they learned? In part 2 of this series, we will consider a valuable lesson these men learned having *been with Jesus*.

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