

# VV STUDY NOTES: 25<sup>th</sup> MAR 2023

Andrew Gebbie

## Peter and John before the High Priest: Acts 4:1-31

- **Opening Reflections**
- As we study the Book of Acts what is not recorded interests me as much as what is recorded. Why do we never hear anything more about Nicodemus, or Joseph of Arimathea?  
Nicodemus: John 3:1-10, **John 7:50-52**, John 19:39-40  
Joseph of Arimathea: Matt: 27:57, Mark 15: 43, John 19: 38; **Luke 23: 50**  
Both these individuals were Disciples of Jesus, and members of the Sanhedrin/Council. They both tried to defend Jesus, and both involved themselves with the Burial of Jesus, in Joseph's own new tomb. Because he was a rich man and a member of the council, Pilate would have been fascinated and probably delighted by his request. They had a prominent part of the story just less than six weeks before today's passage.  
**## Any suggestions as to why this may be?**
- **The works of POWER is a keen interest of mine**. My own personal journey had been part of that fascination. How those in leadership deal with problems, and the ways they do so, gives us significant insight into human nature.

**What was the POWER STRUCTURE in ISRAEL at the time of the events that we are studying today?**

1. ROMAN AUTHORITY
2. THE CHIEF PRIEST & HIS FAMILY
3. THE SADDUCEES
4. THE PHARISEES
5. THE SANHEDRIN
6. THE ZEALOTS
7. THE PEOPLE.

**## Is this a fair representation of the main power groups at the time?**

**## Would you add or subtract anything?**

**## I would like us to discuss what we know about each of these groups and their relationships to each other?** The basic relationship between Rome and the Jewish leadership is foundational to this.

## Acts 4:1-21

- Who arrested Peter and John & why?  
Their Trial, on the following day, included #2, #3, #4, #5 of the power groups.
- Why did this change the dynamics.?
- Why is the High Priest and the male members of his family so significant?
- What do you think of Peter's response to their questions?

**##What exactly did Peter mean when he emphatically declared that Jesus was the only way of salvation?**

- Why did they have a hard time knowing what to do?

- What other power group played a vital role in their decision making?
- Were they barking up the wrong tree by ordering them to stop preaching?

### **Acts 4:22-31 (The Believers Prayer)**

What do you think of what happened among the believers?

**Verse 31:** why was boldness so important, that the power of the Holy Spirit manifested itself so powerfully at this point in time?