

EXTRAordinary

ACTS 4

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

¹ The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is
"the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone."^[a]

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to

stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

EXTRA THOUGHTS . . .

When you hear the word "ordinary", what comes to mind? Do you think of a certain person or place? Do you picture a small quiet town or a specific family? Maybe even your job? Have you ever really pondered this?

For many, the concept of ordinary is hard to imagine. Some believe it is because ordinary people, places and things are simply not that memorable. However, most could probably tell you whom they believe are extraordinary, what they think is extraordinary, and where they have been that they consider to be extraordinary.

The reality is that we remember what is extraordinary, but forget the ordinary. So why is it that so many of us settle at just being ordinary?

We could wager to say that the gap between ordinary and extraordinary is HUGE. That there is no way an everyday person like you and me could ever grab onto the life of the extraordinary. We fall into believing that we are just ordinary people with ordinary jobs, that have no hope of ever achieving success or doing something that really makes a difference.

Unfortunately, this is a commonly held belief, but it is wrong.

The truth is you are **EXTRAORDINARY**.