

# The Outbreak of Persecution

## Session 3

Stott: “If the chief actor in Acts 1 and 2 is the Holy Spirit, the chief actor in Acts 3-6 almost seems to be \_\_\_\_\_” (p. 88)

### Acts 3:1-10

V. 1 The ninth hour = \_\_\_\_ pm There were three times of appointed prayer and sacrifice at the temple—the third hour (9 am), the ninth hour (3 pm) and sunset.

The temple gate (Beautiful) is a double gate and the main entry way on the south side of the temple wall. The central gate (Nicanor) was \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall, covered with brass, and had huge double doors.

The very wrong but commonly accepted idea behind this practice of special prayer times was God would only hear the prayers at those times because a pleasing sacrifice and incense had been offered up.

“May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.” (Psalm 141:2)

Where did Peter and John look (v. 4)? Where do you tend to look when a panhandler is present?

### Let's Sing! “Peter and John Went to Pray”

Peter and John went to pray, They met a lame man on the way  
He held out his palms as he asked for alms, And this is what Peter did say

*“Silver and gold have I none, But such as I have give I thee*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”*

He went walking and leaping and praising God

Walking and leaping and praising God, Walking and leaping and praising God

“In the name of Jesus Christ, of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”

Where does the man go after he is healed (v. 8, 11)?

### Acts 3:11-26

Haven't we heard this sermon before? Compare/contrast Peter's 2nd sermon to his 1st (Acts 2).

Note how Acts 3:26 fits with Rom. 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of salvation of everyone who believes: first for the \_\_\_\_\_, then for the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Acts 4:1-12

The Sanhedrin is the Jewish Supreme Court and it meets in the Temple, so it can convene session quickly. It had \_\_\_\_\_ members, including the high priest.

Who were the Sadducees?

- an elite Jewish sect; ruling class of wealthy aristocrats; aligned with Rome
- believed the messianic age began in the Maccabean period (between the Old and New Testaments), so they were not looking for a Messiah
- denied the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, angels, the Spirit

“They thus saw the apostles as both agitators and heretics, both disturbers of the peace and enemies of the truth. In consequence, they were greatly disturbed by what the apostles were teaching the people, for this was unauthorized preaching by unprofessional preachers” (p. 95)

Why do the Sadducees imprison Peter and John, instead of force them to appear before the court (4:3)? (Hint: it has to do with the time of day.)

What’s the head count in v. 4? \_\_\_\_\_ Stott: “The Sadducees could arrest the apostles, but not the Gospel” (p. 96).

Note their question (asked in v. 7). The proof was indisputable (4:16-17).

#### Acts 4:13-31

What conclusion did the Sanhedrin (rulers, elders and teachers of the law) draw about Peter and John, according to v. 13? Would someone make the same observation about you?

How did Luke know what was said in the Sanhedrin behind closed doors? Who is his source?

The Sanhedrin could not decide on a punishment, only a stern warning to not speak in Jesus’ name. Where do we see today pressure to not mention His name? How did the apostles respond (4:19-20). How should we respond?

What is the manifestation or outward sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 31)?

