Acts 4:1-22

I. The Story

- A. Healing and preaching in the name of Jesus (Mt. 14:21; Mk. 6:44; Lk. 9:14)
- B. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Ps. 118:22-23)
- C. Inside baseball (Luke 12:11-12)

II. Who Speaks for the People of God?

- A. Will the real elders please stand up? (Mt. 13:52; 28:18; Rom. 13:1)
- B. Ignorance, and a final chance (Acts 3:17; Ps. 2:12; Mt. 21:33-41)

III. Authority is Real

- A. The components of authority (Acts 2:22; 3:12; 4:7,16,20; 6:8; 8:13; 19:11; 21:34; 24:8,11,13; 25:11; 26:32)
- B. False authority challenged by true (Ps. 2:2)
- C. A hopeful confrontation
- D. True authority acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ

IV. Christians and Authority

- A. What to expect from the government (Ps. 51; 96:10)
- B. Our attitude toward crummy rulers

V. "We cannot but speak"

- A. What the government may do
- B. What the government may not do