



— *Week Three: No good deed goes unpunished* —

**Date:** June 28, 2020

**Primary Biblical text:** Acts 4:1-12

**Supporting scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:18,23; Luke 21:12-15

**This weeks memory challenge:** Acts 4:12 *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

**Reading for next week:** Acts 4:13-22

— *Reflection and Discussion Notes* —

† **Recap of Acts chapter 3:** The new community of Christ followers is months old. A man is healed, and the crowds are amazed. Peter gives his second speech, connecting Jesus as the fulfillment of everything God has been doing, going all the way back to the Abrahamic covenant. The man who had been healed was healed by faith in the name of Jesus, and the faith that comes through Him.

† And so it begins... the usual suspects

- Sadducees: Key sect of Judaism, counterpart to Pharisees. Aristocratic/nobility. More concerned with economic- material matters than theology. Denied resurrection as a concept. Reaction against Apostles wasn't theological, but fear Apostles would destabilize social and political status quo, threatening their power and standing with Romans. High Priest was from the Sadducees.
- Priests: Chief priests over all temple functions. Sadducees.
- Captain of the temple guard: Leader of temple police. Responsible for keeping peace, suppressing activity that would upset the Romans.
- Rulers and Elders: Jerusalem civic leaders and senior priests. Heads of key families. Group most directly responsible for Jesus' death. Sadducees.
- Scribes/ teachers of the law: Keepers and interpreters of Mosaic Law. Pharisee minority.
- Annas is the previous High Priest 'Emeritus.' Caiaphas is the current High Priest, leader of the Sanhedrin, and Annas' son in law. John/Jonathan is the son of Annas and future high priest who would replace Caiaphas in A.D. 36.

These people represent makeup of the Sanhedrin, Judaism's Supreme Court and civic/religious authority. Jesus, and the gospel message proclaimed by the Apostles, represented a threat to their power, authority (granted by Romans), theology and tradition.

† Greatly disturbed

Reality! From these first days in Jerusalem, through the history of Christianity, and up to this present day, the great offense of Christianity is the truth of Jesus' RESURRECTION.

† Persecution begins... and the church GREW

† Just who is on trial here?

† Why the great offense is so offensive

*Takeaway from today's message*