

THE STORY OF PETER And THE STORY OF RUTH

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

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by

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CHAPTER ELEVEN

PETER AND JOHN UNDER ARREST

LET us look in and see what is going on at the trial held the next morning.

The governing body of Jews, called the Sanhedrin, gathered in its room in the Temple. These notables, mostly Sadducees, robed in all the gorgeous attire of the office, were scholarly and dignified, but hard of heart.

It was their custom at a trial to sit in a semicircle with the accused in the center where all could see him and hear his answers.

The Sadducees did not believe in miracles, neither did they believe in the resurrection of the dead.

“Bring in the prisoners,” command the high-priest and those in authority.

Peter and John enter. But who is that happy-looking man with them?

Oh, that is the man that was healed. He is very determined to stand by his friends, and is greatly concerned about the result of the trial.

The high priest speaks: **“By what power or by what name have you performed this miracle?”**

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answers, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: if we are examined for doing a good deed to a lame man, and you want to know how he was healed, I’ll tell you and all Israel that it was done in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the One that you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. He was the One who gave this man the power to stand before you this day whole in body.

“This Jesus Christ we liken to a stone which the builders rejected and then found it to be the head stone of the corner. Let me say also that not one of you can be saved in any other way for there is no other salvation except by faith in Jesus Christ.”

Look now at the accusers of Peter and John. They are talking among themselves in low tones.

One says, “He uses good language for an ignorant man.” Another says, “Where do these men get their ability, for they have never been to the university?” They conclude finally that they have been with Jesus and learned of Him.

There is one thing that these wise men have overlooked: not only have Peter and John been with the Lord Jesus Christ but at this very moment He is with them.

Now the high priest speaks to Peter and John, “Step outside while we talk over your case.”

They confer with one another— “What shall we do with these men?” one of the leaders says, “for there is no use denying that a great miracle has been performed. All of the city of Jerusalem knows it.”

“The question before us,” says another, “is how shall we keep this thing from spreading?”

They decide to threaten the disciples. To tell them they will let them go, but if they speak any more in the name of Jesus Christ they take their lives in their hands.

Peter and John are called in to receive sentence; they have a power greater than all of their enemies and are not afraid to answer.

Peter speaks in a most fearless manner: “Which is right in the sight of God, to listen to your words or to God’s words? We cannot keep still and not tell the wonderful things that we have heard and seen of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“We tell you to speak no more in this name. If you do, it will go hard with you,” threaten their accusers.

But they do let them go, not because they want to, but because all of the people of Jerusalem are praising God for the miracle of the lame man and the joy of salvation through faith in His name.

What a day in Jerusalem, some were cursing and some praising God!

I think that I can see Peter and John as they went joyfully from the courtroom to the home of some of their fellow Christians, where they told the story of the events of the morning.

As they talked it over, the whole company realized as never before what every Christian was facing in suffering and persecution, for the enemy was filled with hatred. If necessary they would kill them to prevent the spread of the gospel.

What a prayer meeting they had! Never once did they ask the Lord to spare them from physical pain, but they pleaded for strength to speak boldly the Word.

It was a day of triumph for Peter and John, but there is not one word of boasting.

~ end of chapter 11 ~

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