

Responding to the Evidence

Acts 4:13-22

Response of the Sanhedrin (vv. 13-18):

Response of Peter and John (vv. 19-20):

Threat and Release (vv. 21-22):

Traits of a Skeptic:

- Values earthly credentials of a speaker more than the truth of what is said (v. 13)
- Marvels at Spirit-empowered words (v. 13)
- Ignores irrefutable evidence about what God has done through Jesus (vv. 14, 16, 22)
- Worries more about popularity than Truth (vv. 16, 21)
- Attempts to silence the Truth (vv. 17-18)
- Their main problem is with who Jesus is and His resurrection (4:2, 17-18)
- Is offended when someone talks about Jesus (vv. 17-18)
- Pulls rank and makes threats (vv. 18, 21)
- Can't deny or explain away a life that has been changed by Jesus (vv. 14, 22)

Traits of a Faithful Witness:

- Speaks regularly about Jesus and His resurrection (2:22-36, 38; 3:6, 13-26; 4:10-12, 20)
- Calls unbelievers to repentance and faith in Jesus (2:38; 3:19)
- Able to explain the unexplainable (vv. 9-10)
- Relies on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to testify about Jesus (v. 8, 31, 33)
- Formal theological training is not a requirement for effectiveness (v. 13)
- Common and ordinary (v. 13)
- Spends time with Jesus (v. 13)
- Knows the Scriptures (2:16-21, 25-28, 30-31, 34-35, 40; 3:22, 25; 4:10, 24-26)
- Speaks boldly in the face of opposition (v. 13, 31, 33)
- Demonstrates humble and respectful confidence before opposing rulers (vv. 8-13, 19-20)
- Stands up so people can see how God has changed them (v. 14)
- Knows that God is the ultimate authority (v. 19)
- Obeys God over man-made laws (v. 19)
- Compelled to tell others about what they have seen and heard (v. 20)
- Praises God for what He has done (v. 24)

“...for we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)