

Acts 4:1-4

Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

I watched the Acts movie, which is the entire book of Acts, spoken word for word, and is a movie at the same time. As I was watching it, this event came on, and I wondered why 2,000 years ago five thousand would come to Jesus Christ, and today when the gospel is spoken people just turn away and shake their heads.

As I watched, it came to mind that the disciples were not offering the people the same thing that the religious leaders were. The religious leaders of that time were quick to condemn people for their sins and made them pay a big price by cheating the people out of their offerings to God (Check out the gospels where Jesus cleans out the temple). But the disciples were not offering them a religion; they were offering them something they could have right now for no cost at all, because Jesus paid the price on the cross and was the ultimate sacrifice, which no one had to buy.

Back in those times, you were either a religious leader and righteous in your own eyes, or you were a complete rotten dirty sinner that the religious leaders wanted nothing to do with. You could tell who was who back in those days.

But what about today? Can people see a difference in us as believers, or do they see us just like them, with the only difference is that we go to church each week? Why would anyone want to come to Jesus if it won't change his or her life? After all, when you came to Jesus you knew that you were a sinner and you no longer wanted to live that lifestyle, you were looking for a change for the better, and you got one in Jesus Christ.

But now, years later, is that change still evident in our life, or does our life reflect more of the world than Jesus? We as believers, and a church, need to make a change in our lives if we want to see a change in others. We need to continue to put off the old man and put on Jesus Christ

† **Col 3:9-10** *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

Once we put on Jesus Christ, we should not take Him off. If we have, then repent and return to our first love and put on Jesus Christ once again.

Once people start seeing Jesus in our lives, they will flock to Jesus by the thousands, just like they did 2,000 years ago.

† **Romans 13:14** *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*