

“While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead.” Acts 4:1-2 NLT

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Is that ALL they heard? Peter is just killin' it in this impromptu, spirit-led opportunity to preach. He lays it all out for the crowd, even the religious leaders are there. Peter even confronts their evil deeds, “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!” And all they heard, all they take away from this life-changing message is, “we don't believe in resurrection?” Are you kidding me? I just called you a murderer and you complain that I'm teaching heresy about coming back to life! What makes religious leaders so driven, so crazy about their beliefs that they can't see truth right in front of their eyes? Luke tells us that 5000 people believed because of Peter's message, but the Sadducees are STUCK. They can't believe because they can't let go of something they've sacrificed their life for - and it's a false idea! What are the shiny new things of God? What are the objects, aspirations, dreams or desires that are so SPECTACULAR that you'd leave the old behind to pursue the new? Really they are new at all, but in actuality, it's unrecognized TRUTH. It's only new because our eyes are opened and we see what God has been doing all along. It's NEW to us because of a moment where the Holy Spirit reveals truth - old but now new! 5000 people jumped at the chance to join with God and believe. Some priests and religious leaders missed out while they through the preachers in jail.

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Dad,

Oh God, let the scales, the blinders, the false beliefs fall from our eyes for us to see a old, but new to us work that you are doing in our world, our country our city. So that when truth is proclaimed and thousands are waiting for freedom, our own leaders won't be hung up on belief or doctrine or method that they have held onto the entire life. Let them hear the words of life and the truth of your Spirit to being NEW LIFE to everyone - especially those who live in darkness.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root