**Marvelously Obvious**

**Introduction:** Perhaps it is part of our American heritage (though I think it is much more universal), but most of us relish and cheer for the “underdog.” We like to see the “small” or “disadvantaged” guy/team win instead of the “big” or “advantaged” one. This may well be why we/I gravitate to texts like Acts 4:1-13 (sorry, vv.14-22 won’t be covered).

**Background:** Acts 4:1-12. Note that *Peter* and *John* (because they are still the principle characters since 3:1ff)…

* Were *“speaking to the people”* at the temple in the aftermath of healing a man *“lame from his mother’s womb”* that everyone knew, cf. 3:1-10; 4:1a;
* When the some Jewish *priests,* the *captain of the temple guard,* and some *Sadducees “came upon them”* and were *“greatly disturbed because they were* ***teaching the people*** *and* ***proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead****”* (in which the Sadducees did not believe, cf. 23:8),4:1b-2;
* So, *“they laid hands on them, and put them in jail until the next day,”* 4:3;
* Then, *“on the next day,”* the Jewish *officials* (*rulers, elders, scribes,* the *high priest,* and other high-rankingofficers) assembled to *investigate* this matter, and presumably decide what to do about these things and men, 4:5-6;
* They first asked Peter and John *“By what power, or in what name”* (basically, by what *authority*) they had done *this* (meaning, the *miracle* AND *teaching/proclaiming “in Jesus the resurrection from the dead,”* cf.vv.2,7; (this is the same group that denied Jesus was *the Christ* and had Him crucified);
* In v.12, Peter, *“filled with the Holy Spirit,”* then *let it be known* in very clear and plain language *“that by the name of Jesus* ***Christ****”*(thus affirming what these men had denied) *“whom* ***you crucified****”*(squarely placing guilt where it belonged) *“whom* ***God raised from the dead****”* (which these men denied was possible and then tried to concealed once it occurred, cf. Matt.28:11-15), that *“by* ***this name****”* (*“Jesus Christ”* v.10) *“****this man****”* (the one *everyone knew* had been *lame from his mother’s womb*) *“stands here before you* ***in perfect health****”* (thus *healed* by the *very power/Person* whom these men denied and crucified);
* But Peter wasn’t finished- so he added that *“****He****”* (Jesus) *“is the* ***Stone****”* (Savior/Messiah) *“which* ***you, the******builders****”* (again, including these very men to whom Peter is speaking) *“****rejected****”* (by denying who He was, and crucifying Him) *“which* ***became****”* (by *resurrection,* thus proving who He was, Rom.1:4) *“the very* ***corner stone****”* (without which there would be no *structure/building*), 4:11;
* Then to top it all off, Peter added that *“there is salvation in* ***no one else****”* (including these men who presumed themselves not only the *access to* but *arbiters for* God Himself, Matt.23:2) *“for there is* ***no other name******under heaven*** *that has been given among men, by which we* ***must be saved****”* (just *“Jesus Christ,”* v.10), v.12. Now, all of that was to provide the necessary background for, and to get us to, **v.13**.

**Several words/phrases/concepts stand out in Acts 4:13**.

* ***“Uneducated”-*** *agrammatos: unlearned; has not acquired a formal education;* here means a “lack of formal rabbinic training,” Louw-Nida. These men are not assuming or accusing Peter and John of being “illiterate,” but of being “unlearned” or “unschooled” **by them**! Now think about this for a moment: Where had these men’s *schooling* gotten them? They were ones that denied the obvious (*“convincing proofs”* 1:3; cf.2:22) and *rejected* and *crucified* the One sent to save them. Tell me again exactly *who* is *“uneducated”* here? If you’re **“education”** requires or leads you to: *ignore contradictory evidence, reject the obvious facts, deny apparent conclusions*, *seek to* *destroy those proclaiming truth,* and *conceal your actions,* it’s not “education”- just propaganda, and “uneducated” is definitely the way to go, cf. Rom.1:18-23; 1Cor.1:18-25.
* ***Untrained****- idiotes: ignorant, unskilled, one that has not acquired systemic information or expertise in some field of knowledge or activity;* according to the Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, it generally refers to *a private person as opposed to a magistrate, ruler, or king;* a *common soldier* as opposed to a *trained military officer;* and in the N.T., an *unlearned man* as opposed to the *learned/educated one;* one who is thus, *unskilled.* Peter and John **were** *unskilled* in Jewish theology; they were not *trained* as *scribes, priests,* or *rabbis,* nor had they been “groomed” for seats on the prestigious *Sanhedrin Council* (as Saul/Paul had been). They were mere *fishermen!* And yet, they were also…
* ***Confident-*** *parrhesia: freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech; open, frank, clear,* and *without concealment* or *ambiguity; bold, confident,* cf. v.31.  *Confidence* and *boldness,* as in vv.8-12, didn’t come to Peter and John from Jewish theology “education” or “training,” butfrom: 1) *“having been with Jesus”* (they had *been with Jesus* almost 24/7 for about three and a half years; they *walked with*, *ate with, observed,* and *listened to* Him; they *witnessed countless miracles* He did, and *understood who/what* He was; and, 2) being *“filled with the Holy Spirit”-* specifically in 2:1-4, and generally in 4:8,31. No, they weren’t *educated* and *trained* by Jewish “religious elites,” they were *trained* by the Son of God and *educated* by the Holy Spirit of God. This is the source of their *“confidence”!*
* ***Marvelously Obvious-*** *“marveling”* comes from *thaumazo- to wonder at,* be *amazed by,* and *to admire*; these Jewish theologians were *amazed, astonished,* and *impressed* by two fisherman for an *obvious* reason: ***they had been with Jesus****-* and **it *showed****,*cf. Ex.34:29-30; Matt.5:14!

**Now here’s what we should get from all of this:**

1. **“Education”- *secular* or *theological* is not “bad” unless it causes/leads us to *ignore evidence, deny facts, cling to untenable/illogical conclusions,* *reject truth,* and/or *live disobediently.* Thank goodness spiritual understanding and wisdom is readily available to the “uneducated,” 1Cor.1:26-29!**
2. **Special “Religious Training” isn’t required to be spiritually right/upright, “on the job” training will do just fine, Matt.7:24-29!**
3. **“Confidence” stems from being *taught/educated by the Spirit* and *trained by* and *being with Jesus,* Acts 4:8,13.And,**
4. **When you have been thus *educated* and *trained,* it is *marvelously obvious* to everyone, cf. Matt.5:14!**
5. **Two questions remain: a) Are you thus *educated* and *trained?* If so, it should be *marvelously obvious* to everyone. And, b) If not, why not start today, right now?**