

In the Name of the Nazarene

(Short version, 290 words)

The scene is set in Jerusalem, some three months after the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate at the instigation of the Jewish religious authorities, headed by Caiaphas and Annas.

Peter and John have been inspired to continue the mission of their leader, whom they now recognise as the Messiah, the divinely-anointed ('christos') Saviour King, foretold by the prophets.

Peter has just performed his first miracle (the healing of a cripple) and preached to a large crowd in the city. He has told them that Jesus has risen from the dead, that anyone who calls on God in his name will have his sins forgiven, and indeed that salvation is to be found in him alone (not in the strict observance of Mosaic Law, as interpreted by the high priests and doctors of the law). Fighting words...

That evening, on the orders of the high priests, the two disciples are arrested and put under guard until the following day.

STORYTELLER

¹Οἱ ἱερεῖς καὶ ὁ στρατηγὸς τοῦ ἱεροῦ
³ἐπέβαλον αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας
καὶ ἔθεντο εἰς τήρησιν εἰς τὴν αὔριον·
ἦν γὰρ ἐσπέρα ἤδη.

⁵Πολλοὶ δὲ τῶν ἀκουσάντων τὸν λόγον ἐπίστευσαν,
καὶ ἐγενήθη ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ὡς χιλιάδες πέντε.

⁶Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐπὶ τὴν αὔριον συναχθῆναι αὐτῶν
τοὺς ἄρχοντας καὶ τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους καὶ τοὺς γραμματεῖς
ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ,
καὶ Ἄννας ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, καὶ Καϊάφας,
⁷καὶ στήσαντες αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ μέσῳ ἐπυνθάνοντο·

THE PRIESTS

Ἐν ποίᾳ δυνάμει ἢ ἐν ποίῳ ὀνόματι ἐποιήσατε τοῦτο ὑμεῖς;

PETER

⁸Ἀρχοντες τοῦ λαοῦ καὶ πρεσβύτεροι,
¹⁰γνωστὸν ἔστω πᾶσιν ὑμῖν, καὶ παντὶ τῷ λαῷ Ἰσραὴλ,
ὅτι ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ Ναζωραίου,
ὃν ὑμεῖς ἐσταυρώσατε,
ὃν ὁ θεὸς ἡγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν.

¹²Καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν ἄλλῳ οὐδενὶ ἢ σωτηρία.

STORYTELLER

¹³Θεωροῦντες δὲ τὴν τοῦ Πέτρου παρρησίαν καὶ Ἰωάννου,
καὶ καταλαβόμενοι
ὅτι ἄνθρωποι ἀγράμματοί εἰσιν καὶ ἰδιῶται,
ἐθαύμαζον,
ἐπεγίνωσκόν τε αὐτοὺς ὅτι σὺν τῷ Ἰησοῦ ἦσαν.

¹⁵Κελεύσαντες δὲ αὐτοὺς ἔξω τοῦ συνεδρίου ἀπελθεῖν,
συνέβαλλον πρὸς ἀλλήλους, λέγοντες·

THE PRIESTS

¹⁶Τί ποιήσωμεν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τούτοις;
ὅτι μὲν γὰρ γνωστὸν σημεῖον γέγονεν δι' αὐτῶν
πᾶσιν τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν Ἱερουσαλὴμ φανερόν,
καὶ οὐ δυνάμεθα ἀρνεῖσθαι.

STORYTELLER

²¹Οἱ δὲ ἀπέλυσαν αὐτούς, διὰ τὸν λαόν,
ὅτι πάντες ἐδόξαζον τὸν θεὸν ἐπὶ τῷ γεγονότι.

²³Ἀπολυθέντες δὲ ἦλθον πρὸς τοὺς ἰδίους
καὶ ἀπήγγειλαν
ὅσα πρὸς αὐτοὺς οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ πρεσβύτεροι εἶπαν.

²⁴Οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες
ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἤραν φωνὴν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν καὶ εἶπαν·

THE PEOPLE (*in prayer to God*)

Δέσποτα,
σὺ ὁ ποιήσας τὸν οὐρανὸν
καὶ τὴν γῆν καὶ τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐν αὐτοῖς,
²⁹Κύριε,
ἐπίδε ἐπὶ τὰς ἀπειλὰς αὐτῶν,
καὶ δὸς τοῖς δούλοις σου
μετὰ παρρησίας πάσης λαλεῖν τὸν λόγον σου.

STORYTELLER

³¹Καὶ ἐσαλεύθη ὁ τόπος ἐν ᾧ ἦσαν συνηγμένοι,
καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος,
καὶ ἐλάλουν τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ μετὰ παρρησίας.