

# Acts 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

## Analysis

The council's admission - 'a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it' - acknowledges undeniable reality while refusing proper response. The Greek 'gnōston sēmeion' (notable miracle) indicates a widely-known, authenticating sign. Their confession 'we cannot deny it' admits truth while planning to suppress it, demonstrating the futility of opposing manifest divine activity.

## Historical Context

Jerusalem's compact size (about 600 acres within walls) meant news spread rapidly. The healed man had begged at the temple's prominent gate (Acts 3:2) where thousands passed daily. Denying the miracle would destroy the council's credibility, forcing them to acknowledge what condemned their Christ-rejection.

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do people acknowledge God's work while refusing to submit to His authority?
2. What does 'we cannot deny it' teach about truth's ultimate triumph despite powerful opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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λέγοντες Τί ποιήσομεν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τούτοις ὅτι  
Saying What shall we do G3588 men to these that  
G3004 G5101 G4160 G444 G5125 G3754

μὲν γὰρ γνωστὸν σημεῖον γέγονεν δι' αὐτῶν  
indeed for a notable miracle hath been done by them  
G3303 G1063 G1110 G4592 G1096 G1223 G846

πᾶσιν τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν Ἱερουσαλὴμ φανερόν καὶ  
to all them that dwell in Jerusalem is manifest and  
G3956 G3588 G2730 G2419 G5318 G2532

οὐ δυνάμεθα ἀρνήσασθαι.  
we cannot deny  
G1410 G720

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 6:10** (Parallel theme): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

**John 12:18** (Parallel theme): For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

**Luke 21:15** (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.