

Title:

Sun Morning

LIVING COURAGEOUSLY

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | APRIL 7, 2024

Text: Acts 4:13-20

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. 14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 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. 17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:13-20)

INTRODUCTION

- Acts 3:1-10 Peter heals lame man at temple area
- Acts 3:11 Crowd runs to Solomon's Porch to see the sight
- Acts 3:12-26 Peter preaches to crowd about Jesus
 - * Jesus Son of God
 - * Jesus the Holy One
 - * Jesus the Just One
 - * Jesus the Prince of Life
 - * Jesus the Christ
- Acts 4:1-7 Peter & John arrested by temple authorities
- Church very bold in its beginning

- Name of Jesus

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

1. THE Source OF COURAGE (v. 13)

A. A perception - understanding

THE COUNCIL'S PERCEPTION

men not taught in religious studies

Quote: "There is no inherent value or spirituality in ignorance, but often people glory in their education and become proud and lifted up, rather than humbly acknowledging that every good thing they have comes from God."

THE COUNCIL'S MARVELING - men had been with Jesus

B. A conclusion

Quote: "Nearness is likeness."

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" (Philippians 3:10)

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;" (Ephesians 3:8)

THEY WERE SPIRIT FILLED

"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel," (Acts 4:8)

Holy Spirit filled gives boldness to speak about Jesus

THEY SPOKE WITH BOLDNESS

"And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?" (Acts 3:12)

Quote: "The Holy Spirit gives us power for witness and for service. It is futile for us to try to serve God without the power of the Holy Spirit. Talent, training, and experience cannot take the place of the power of the Spirit."—Warren Wiersbe

THEY SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." (Matthew 7:28-29)

2. THE strife AGAINST THE COURAGEOUS (v. 14-18) - conflict

A. The fear of Godly Influence

THEY FEARED THE POWER OF JESUS

preached
in name
of Jesus

"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6)

"For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed." (Acts 4:22)

power of
Jesus name
gives grief
& anger in
some

THEY COULD NOT SPEAK AGAINST THE MIRACLE

"And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, 2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead." (Acts 4:1-2)

B. The threat against Godly Influence

THEY CONFERRED PRIVATELY

conspired
to silence
Peter &
James

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed," (Psalm 2:2-3)

THEY THREATEN PUBLICLY

Quote: "Satan always resorts to force when other methods fail. The great concern of the Sanhedrin was not to get to the truth but to stop the truth from spreading."—John Phillips

3. THE Stand OF THE COURAGEOUS (v. 19-20)

A. They feared God

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)

MAINTAINING COURAGE IN THE MIDST OF THREATS

1. Fear God More than Man

2. Expect Threats

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (1 Peter 4:12-14)

3. Remember God's Sovereignty

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Quote: "All the fiery trials are 'Father Filtered'"

4. Leverage For Growth

"David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee." (1 Samuel 17:37)

Quote: "A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor."

B. They spoke of God

THEY WERE COMPELLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" (John 15:26)

power of Holy Spirit

THEY WERE OBEDIENT TO CHRIST

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20)

power of Jesus Christ

CONCLUSION

- The Great Commission
- * Mt 28:18-20 Jesus holds all power... Go & make disciples
- * Mk 16:15-16 Go into all the world & preach the gospel
- * Lk 24:46-49 You are witnesses... Christ dead & risen... preach
- * Jn 20:21, 30-31 so send I you... believe Jesus is Son of God
- * Acts 1:5, 8 Baptized with Holy Spirit & receive power of Holy Spirit... witnessing of Jesus everywhere

4 WAYS TO "BE WITH JESUS"

1. Through Salvation

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."
(John 3:7)

2. Through the Word

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."
(John 5:39) Jesus speaking

3. Through Abiding With Christ - Jesus

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."
(John 15:7)

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
(Psalm 139:23-140:1)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."
(James 4:7-8)

4. Through Prayer

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." (1 Peter 3:12)