

Connect Lesson May 21-22, 2022
Pastor Paul Daugherty
“Acts 4 - A Bold Faith”

Message Recap

I. Bold

Boldness is a trait that every Christian should possess, especially as they are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Boldness is defined as not hesitating or fearful in the face of actual or possible danger or rebuff; courageous and daring beyond the usual limits of conventional thought or action; imaginative. God has called His Church to be bold in the face of all opposition. The Early Church in Acts was faced with daily persecution and the threat of death and imprisonment, yet, when the time came to proclaim the name of Jesus, they did so boldly.

II. Disturbing the Dead

Jesus consistently talked to the religious leaders of the day about being dead inside. Jesus had no problem, and in fact, made a point to disturb the dead things inside of those practicing religion. When rules and judgment took the place of love and grace, Jesus consistently corrected the Pharisees for their corruption of God's words and image and the unbearable weight of rules they placed on His children. Right Christianity will disturb wrong Christianity every time. Who are you disturbing? When we follow God boldly, there will be people who do not like us. Sometimes we are threatening the insecurities and biases of others when we preach Christ was crucified and resurrected.

III. The Source of Boldness

Boldness comes from being with Jesus. The early disciples had an encounter with Jesus and were filled with His Holy Spirit. Oftentimes, we exchange information for intimacy. But knowing about Jesus makes us idle while knowing Jesus makes us bold. Trusting Jesus and putting the fear of man behind us is what we are called to do to reach a dying world.

Read and Discuss

Read Acts 4:1-22

1. Why were the religious leaders “disturbed” by the preaching about Jesus??
2. Think about this: Are there religious things in my life that I need to let God disturb?
3. Who gives us the power to be bold? What is our part to play in boldly speaking Jesus?

Read Proverbs 29:25

1. Have you ever given in to the “fear of man”? How did you overcome that?
2. How does trusting God help us get over fearing the opinions and actions of people?

Scripture Reading

Acts 4:1-22

1The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. 5The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. 7They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" 8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." 12Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." 13When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. 14But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. 15So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. 16"What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. 17But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name." 18Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." 21After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. 22For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.