

012 - Acts 4:23-31 Boldness to Speak

Scripture Reading: Psalm 2

Confession of Sin: Psalm 51:9-15

Sermon: "Boldness to Speak" Acts 4:23-31

Benediction: Acts 4:29

Act 4:23-31 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. (24) So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, (25) who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'WHY DID THE NATIONS RAGE, AND THE PEOPLE PLOT VAIN THINGS? (26) THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' (27) "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together (28) to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. (29) Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, (30) by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." (31) And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

I. The Persecuted Believers Gathered with the Church (23)

II. The Church Prayed (24)

A. They praised God as creator (24)

B. They quoted scripture (25-26)

C. They acknowledged that what has happened has been according to God's purpose (27-28)

D. They recounted their trouble (29)

E. They asked for power to obey the Lord's command (29)

1. in this case it was the command to speak the word of the Lord

a. they needed boldness/bravery/courage

b. their supply of it in their own humanness was not sufficient

Q: Would Peter have been aware of this?

c. so they prayed that the Lord would give them the boldness to speak the message of Jesus Christ in the face of opposition, even persecution

2. APPLICATION: in other cases it is some other command of the Lord

3. but one of the prayers of the church must always be that the Lord grant us the power of the Holy Spirit for boldness to speak of Jesus Christ

F. They asked for power to do the miraculous (30)

G. They appealed to the name of Jesus (30)

III. The Lord Granted What the Church Prayed For (31)

A. Their prayer was answered in the filling with the Holy Spirit

B. They were granted power to obey the Lord's command