

011 - Acts 4:13-22 The Boldness of Peter and John
GRBC 2012-02-19

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:1-30

Sermon: They Had Been with Jesus Acts 4:13-22

Benediction: Hebrews 13:5b-6

Hebrews 13:5b-6 He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." (6) So we may boldly say: "THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?"

Acts 4:13-22 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. (14) And seeing the man who had been 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, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. (17) But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." (18) So 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 to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (21) So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. (22) For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

I. Peter and John were bold in speaking the Gospel of Jesus Christ (or brave or courageous) (13)

A. Not because they had formal education *agrammatos*

1. We understand that a person with advanced education in a certain field will not be afraid to speak to a panel of officials about that subject
2. But these men did not have this formal education

B. Not because they had official license, office, or position in the Jewish system *ideotes*

1. If they were approved scribes or rabbis or priests, then it would be expected that they could speak about religious matters
2. But these men had no license or office, according to this council

C. But because they were filled with the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ (8)

D. APPLICATION: If you are to be bold, brave, courageous in living for Christ and speaking for Him, you will have to rely on His Spirit in you.

II. Peter and John were not like they had been before, when they were with Jesus (13b)

A. The council takes note that these men had been with Jesus

B. But surely they were not acting like they had acted when they were with Him

1. John had told another minister driving out demons, and told him not to, because he wasn't with their group; he asked if he could call down fire to burn

up a whole village of Samaritans; and had wanted to be first in the kingdom
2. Peter had told Jesus not to go through with His plans to die at Jerusalem; he had struck with the sword when he shouldn't have, and finally he had denied he even knew Jesus

- C. No, they were not acting like their old selves. Who were they acting like? They were acting like Jesus of Nazareth, who had appeared before this council a few weeks before.
- D. Why? Because they were full of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ

III. Their persecutors operated purely on selfish pragmatism, with no concern for truth or right and wrong

- A. They would like to deny an obvious miracle (16)
 - by attributing it to Satan
 - by paying someone to lie about it
- B. They conferred among themselves (15)
 - those in power develop the idea that their counsel alone determines right and wrong
 - losing track of the fact that there are fixed standards in God's law
- C. Instead of dealing with the substance of what the apostles were saying, they threatened them to keep them quiet (17)
 - 1. whether or not the message was true should have been the question
 - 2. but this council did not care to debate substance, but to silence dissent

APPLICATION: see that this is what we deal with today!

- D. They were constrained from evil only by fear of personal harm (21)
EXCURSIS: This is the militia! Corrupt rulers need to know that if they act too much upon their evil desires, the people will resort to violence against them.

IV. Peter and John rejected their persecutors' unlawful demands

- A. on the grounds that God must be obeyed (19)
- B. on the grounds that the truth about Jesus Christ must be told (20)

“The church has always been under persecution.”

Bunyan: “If you let me out today, I’ll be preaching Him tomorrow.”

MacLaren:

It was having in them the Holy Spirit that was making them act like Jesus.