

“Church, What’s in it for Me?”

Church is the Place to find Grace

Acts 4:23-37

Is Church Relevant? ... IF Relevant means “to Connect” than how is the Local Church perceived?

So, Is Our Church Relevant? I believe Jesus said He was building His Church because He knows that the Church is a place much needed by people.

I think we will find that the Church was meant to be a place of Refuge and Resources.

Church is the place of: Refuge, Resources

-- What problems do we encounter when seeking Refuge?

Yes, can we get there?... Will I be welcomed?... Will I belong?

I. Refuge - “**their own company**” (vs. 23-31)

It is where We can connect to:

❖ **People** – “*they went to their own*”

➤ *Notice several interesting details*

- “*being let go*” – *as soon as they could* – *they went to be with their people*
- “*their company*” – *their local church*
- “*told all that was said*” – *not was done but what was said*

◆ **Hierarchy of Importance**

- People with extraordinary minds, talk about ideas.
- People with average minds, talk about events.
- People with simple minds, talk about other people.

--Anonymous

B. Providence – “*thy counsel determined*”

Verses 25 –27 describes everyone who opposes God’s Plan

- **Nations (Heathen)** (Ἕθνη Acts 4:25)
 - compare with **Gentiles** (*ethnesin*, v. 27);
- **peoples** (*laoi*, v. 25)
 - compare with **people of Israel** (v. 27);
- **kings** (v. 26)
 - compare with **Herod** (v. 27); and
- **rulers** (v. 26)
 - compare with **Pontius Pilate** (v. 27).

Genesis 50: 19-20

BUT JUST AS JOSEPH FOUND OUT – GOD PLAN WILL WORK USING EVEN OPPOSITION

¹⁹And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? ²⁰And as for you, ye meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

C. Power – “they... prayed, the place was shaken”

- Lord, Thou art God =
 - Recognition
 - Reverence
- Hast Made =
 - Creator - John 1:3
 - Life Giver – John 1:4

*** Don't Miss that the Apostles asked for Boldness and God gave them Filling.

- Filling is not to be asked for... It is already commanded
- Filling produces Boldness
 - Boldness is for speaking the Word

*** Filling is what we need for Power and Boldness –

Why don't we always have it? SIN

>>>> Sin is what comes between us and God...

ILLUSTRATION of Austins next door – Their nice van but wouldn't start – Why? Bad battery? No! Bad Car? No! There was corrosion on one of the cables that connects the car to the Battery. That corrosion, ie YUCKY Stuff, is like sin. It must be removed for the car to enjoy the power and run.

II. Resource – “all things common” (vs. 32-37)

All who come should find:

A. Encouragement – “one heart and of one soul”

How can this be? Where does one go to get such unity?

What was their one heart and one soul desire?

I believe all unity and generosity must flow from commitment and consecration.

II Corinthians 8:4-5 Paul Brags on the church at Macedonia to the Corinthians ---- Explaining that He learned something about what made them so generous in the ministry = Consecration = Giving themselves first to God

B. Evangelism – “apostles witness of the resurrection”

“Great grace was upon them all”

This kind of grace is:

- *the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine*
- *That which kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues*
- *The desire and power to do God's Will*
- *Noted Blessing for commitment to do God's Will*

C. Essentials – “any among them that lacked”

The prosperity Gospel people are teaching the opposite of this passage... They want you to collect material wealth to keep up with the Jones BUT...It is

- *Not Keeping up with the Jones but keeping the Jones UP*