

## **THEY WERE BOLD**

Acts 4:1-21

### **INTRODUCTION:**

This morning I want to talk to you about being Bold for the Lord

As I introduce this subject Let me ask you a question.

What makes you bold?

### **Some people are BOLD when there's nothing to lose**

There was a condemned man on death row who was asked what he would like for his last meal before execution. The menu was - Lobster, Filet Mignon, Beef Wellington, Caviar or Shrimp. The prisoner replied - "I'd like a bowl of mushrooms." The warden was surprised, "Why a bowl of mushrooms?" The prisoner replied, "I've always been afraid I'd die eating them....."

It is easy to be bold when there is nothing to lose

### **Others it seems are just naturally BOLD**

Like the young man who was almost robbed in New York City

HE was walking from the bus depot to his father's apartment. When 2 men approached him and pulled a gun demanding that he give them his wallet.

"NO" he replied. They pointed the gun at his head and said, "give us your wallet". "NO" he replied again. Finally, they gave up!

Later he was asked why he didn't give up his wallet,

He replied, "My learner's permit is in there."

**BUT NOT EVERYONE IS NATURALLY BOLD  
AND TO BE BOLD SOMETIMES MAY MEAN THAT WE WILL  
LOSE SOMETHING**

What about the Apostles

They were BOLD weren't they?

Let's look at 2 scenes:

Scene 1: Jesus has just been arrested by the temple guards & Romans. In the courtyard, the disciples have run for their lives. Peter is hiding in the shadows and is recognized and accused of being one of Jesus' followers. 3 times, Peter denies even knowing the man out of fear.

Scene 2: (Acts 4:1-21) Peter and John boldly teach Jesus rose from the dead. Arrested & brought before a council (v5), they were commanded to stop teaching (v16-20). In response, Peter and John said they could not stop teaching/preaching in the name of Jesus Christ.

What happened to Peter and John?

What was the reason for their transformation?

Did they take some pill to make them super-Christians?

What changed them from wimps to witnesses?

What was it that gave them the boldness to stand against the same people who had crucified Jesus?

Acts 4:8

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!

Is it possible to have been filled with the Holy Spirit and be walking through this Christian life not filled

I would suggest to you that since our text in context displays for us that we can be refilled then it certainly follows that those who were once filled became empty and were in need of a fresh infilling of the Holy Ghost

IN Today's world WE could use some Christians who are as BOLD as Peter and John.

What's it going to take

We need to be Filled and we need to remain filled With The Holy Spirit

## **PRAYER**

To get an accurate picture of Christian boldness,

Let's look at the disciples' example

## **FIRST OF ALL THEY WERE**

### **1. BOLD IN THEIR TEACHING – SO BOLD IN FACT THAT THEY GET ARRESTED**

Acts 4:1-4

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. [2] They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. [3] They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. [4] But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

### **1. FIRST I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT THEY WERE NOT TROUBLE MAKERS**

One lady came up to her pastor after he had preached on this subject of BOLDNESS and said

Pastor, I have a husband who is lost and I have tried to be bold, but it never works

Well what do you do? I come home from church and there he is watching football and drinking beer. I slap that beer out of his hand, turn the TV off and tell him that if he doesn't go to church he is gonna burn in hell

Some people get rudeness and boldness confused

**They were not trouble makers**  
They were in **THEIR** church

They been taught from childhood of the importance of temple attendance,

They wanted to worship at the temple and honored the Word of God.

## **2. BUT GOD HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND**

The Holy Spirit came upon Peter

And a lame beggar was healed at the gate beautiful

Which lead to Peter explaining what had happened and then to the preaching his second sermon

## **3. WHAT YOU MUST KNOW IS THAT IN THE BACK OF PETER'S MIND HE KNEW THAT THE TEMPLE AUTHORITIES WERE OUT TO GET HIM.**

These leaders were responsible for Jesus crucifixion

They were probably tired of hearing about

Jesus, who had caused quite an uproar in the traditions of the temple.

Now these 2 men were teaching contrary to tradition.

## **4. NONE THE LESS PETER AND JOHN BOLDLY TAUGHT THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS GOD**

Further they taught the Jewish people to turn from their sinful ways

Even worse, they were proclaiming that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and was alive.

## **5. THEIR BOLDNESS WAS UPSETTING TO THE PRIESTS AND TEMPLE LEADERS.**

so, the Sanhedrin (the ruling 70) arrested them.

## **6. WHEN PEOPLE BOLDLY TEACH SOMETHING IS TRUE AND BELIEVE IT WITH FERVOR AND INTENSITY, THEY ARE HARD TO STOP.**

### **Illustration:**

If you teach a book on parenting, but didn't really know much about parenting,

In fact you don't even have any kids

You could probably teach the material, after studying the book you'd probably get the job done.

But you would probably do a poor JOB

**On the other hand**, let's say that you have a passion for dirt bikes and you're asked to teach about them.

What would be the difference?

Will there be more boldness in teaching dirt bikes or parenting?

Which will you enjoy more? Which will make more impact?

## **7. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE BIBLE TO BE TAUGHT WITHOUT PASSION?**

Would you want to go somewhere to just read the material in a DEAD church.

Or would you want to be where the WORD of GOD is studied with passion and impacts people's lives?

### **IF WE LACK BOLDNESS**

Could it be that we Lack a love and fervor for the most powerful message in the world?

Could it be that we are not convinced of its power and its truth?

Could it be that we have not allowed the message of the gospel to transform us and we are resisting The Holy Spirits movement in our lives

**THE DISCIPLES WERE BOLD IN THEIR TEACHING BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED BY IT**

Secondly

**2. THEY WERE BOLD REGARDING THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME**

What's in a name?

My brother is a pharmacist in Chicago he encounters some unusual names

One day a lady came in for a prescription for her daughter Usnavy. He inquired how she had come to give her daughter the name Usnavy. She said that she had named her after the ship her father sailed away on when she had last seen him US NAVY.

Another young man came into his pharmacy to get a prescription filled and his name was LEMONJELLO...

**Our names are pretty important**

The name of Jesus is an extraordinary name  
A powerful name

The ENEMY would have us think it is a common name and cuss word in fact

But it is the name by which we have authority to establish the Kingdom of God

In the name of JESUS we plant the church  
Preach the gospel

See the sick healed  
 The lame walk  
 The blind see  
 AND The prisoner set free

Acts 4:5-11

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. [6] Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. [7] They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

[8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! [9] If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, [10] then 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. [11] He is

" 'the stone you builders rejected,  
 which has become the capstone.'

Turn over to LUKE 20

Luke 20:1-2

One day as he was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. [2] "Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this authority?"

Luke 20:17-18

Jesus looked directly at them and asked, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

" 'The stone the builders rejected  
 has become the capstone'?"

[18] Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

## **1. PETER AND JOHN HAD BELIEVED IN THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE NAME OF JESUS**

His was not just a name to be thrown around

But through HIM and through faith---in His name they lame beggar walked

Then When that beggar walked and praised God,

The beggar caused an uproar

It's one thing to teach about Jesus,  
it quite another to see someone healed in the name of Jesus.

When Healings start taking place it causes an uproar.

## **2. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ABOUT HEALING?**

- By his stripes we are healed
- Mark 16:17-18 And these signs will accompany those .... they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."
- James 5:14-15 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

### **I BELIEVE IN HEALING**

If it were not so we would not pray in church for people to be healed

Peter and John demonstrated confidence and boldness

That in the name of Jesus this man WOULD BE Healed.

### **DO YOU BELIEVE?**

### **3. I BELIEVE WE NEED A RENEWED BOLDNESS IN THE PRAYER OF FAITH FOR HEALING.**

As in any doctrine, there can be excesses and abuses of the prayer for healing.

The other day I ran across an add in the Charisma magazine offering a seminar where I could learn t become a-

#### **Certified Divine Healing Technician**

Official Recognition – does not make one bold

But recognition of who the healer is

Should be the basis for our boldness

Jesus Christ is the healer and He alone heals.

Therefore I can Boldly say **IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST  
BE HEALED.**

Thirdly they were

### **3. BOLD IN THEIR PREACHING THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN**

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Some people are bold in a crowd.

Some people are bold when they think it's safe to talk

### **1. BUT, PETER AND JOHN WERE BOLD BECAUSE THEY KNEW THE SERIOUSNESS OF WHAT THEY WERE PREACHING**

They boldly stated there is no salvation in any other name but Jesus!

They were unashamedly stating that the Sanhedrin needed Jesus!!!!

Some people have trouble with Jesus' statement

John 14:6

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Many people believe that God's love makes everyone acceptable to Him.

## **2. BUT THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IS VERY EXCLUSIVE –**

Either follow Him or you don't get into heaven!

OLD grandpa bill – he was a good man

And I am sure that God in His mercy will let him into heaven

Well I am not God to tell you who made it into heaven and who did not

But I do boldly proclaim the word of God to you

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

SO unless old granda Bill knew Jesus as his savior than he is in hell

But what about the African tribesman who never heard

There in hell also...

But surely God is merciful

Yes he is

he sent his son Jesus and has called His church to go and Boldly proclaim...

Peter and John knew this and they knew no matter what happened to them they had to preach the word

### **3. IF WE REALLY WERE CONVINCED THAT WITHOUT FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, A PERSON WOULD GO TO HELL,**

we could not help speaking about it also

we would **BOLDLY** be asking more and more people about their salvation experience and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Finally

### **4. THE DISCIPLES WERE BOLD BECAUSE THEY KNEW WHAT MATTERED**

Acts 4:13-20

When 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. [14] But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. [15] So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. [16] "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. [17] But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

[18] Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. [19] But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. [20] For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

### **ILLUSTRATION**

A young boy once approached his father to ask, "Dad, why does the wind blow?", to which the father responded, "I don't know, son."

“Dad, where do the clouds come from?”

“I’m not sure, son.”

“Dad, what makes a rainbow?”

“No idea, son.”

“Dad, do you mind me asking you all these questions.?”

“Not at all, son. How else are you going to learn?”

## **1. OUR TEXT POINTS OUT THAT THE DISCIPLES WERE UNLEARNED MEN**

But it does not mean they were stupid

These unschooled, uneducated men were spiritually attuned enough to realize that the most important person to please is the Lord Jesus Christ!

They were convinced that if no one but Jesus was pleased with them, that was OK!

## **2. WHAT ABOUT US?**

Are we bold enough to take a stand for Jesus whether or not any one else does?

Do we attend worship because it’s the right thing to do or because family expects us to?

Is your heart so set on following the Lord Jesus that nothing else matters?

Nothing else –

Not family,  
not finances,

not future ministry,  
not job,  
not how it looks in the community,  
not how it appears to other family members  
or church members,  
but the #1 desire of your heart is to please God!

We Need this kind of **BOLDNESS**

You can have this kind of BOLDNESS

## **CONCLUSION**

### **1. FIRST YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE**

Peter and John Believed in what they were teaching

Because they had experienced it

### **2. SECONDLY WE HAVE TO BELIEVE IN THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS NAME**

**PETER AND JOHN STOOD DID ALL THAT THEY DID IN THE  
AUTHORITY OF JESUS NAME**

**AND FOR HIS GLORY**

### **3. Thirdly we have to KNOW that Jesus is the only way to salvation**

For there is no other name

Do you believe it....

And

### **4. We need to know what really matters in life**

Pleasing God and doing what he says

Finally we need to be filled and re-filled with the Holy Spirit...