

Jesus' Devoted Followers

Acts 4:13-22

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- “Bubba” Smith and the Miller Lite Commercial
- What message do our lives advertise?
- Setting the stage:
 - Peter and the lame man
 - Acts 3:6-8-- *“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise and walk! And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So, he leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-- walking, leaping, and praising God.”*
 - Acts 3:10-- *“filled with wonder and amazement at what happened to him.”*
 - Peter’s message to the crowd—need to repent and be converted
 - Acts 3:16-- *“And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”*
 - Acts 3:19-- *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”*
 - Peter and John detained by the Sanhedrin
 - Acts 4:2-- *“greatly disturbed that they had taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”*
 - Acts 4:3-- *“they laid hands on them, and put them—that is, Peter and John—in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.”*
 - The makeup of the Sanhedrin
 - Acts 4:6-- *“Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest”*
 - Peter’s message—rejected “stone” has become the cornerstone
 - Acts 4:10-- *“Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole.”*
 - Psalm 118:22-- *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”*
 - Matthew 21:43-44-- *“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruit of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”*
 - Acts 4:12-- *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*
 - Response of the Sanhedrin
 - Acts 4:4-- *“Many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of men came to be about five thousand!”*
 - Acts 4:13-14-- *“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. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.”*
 - Recognition that Peter and John had “been with Jesus”!

- John 18:15-16-- *“Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now the disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in”*

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A. A Confident Courage to speak openly about Christ.

- Acts 4:13-14--*“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. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.”*
1. **Not the result of formal education or training.**
 2. **They were “just like Jesus”**
 - John 7:15-- *“marveled, saying ‘How does this man know letters, having never studied.’”*
 - Matthew 7:28-29-- *“And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings (that is, preaching the Sermon on the Mount), that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, not as the scribes.”*
 3. **Result of being filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit**
 - a. Holy Spirit will teach you
 - Luke 12:11-12-- *“Now when they bring you to the synagogue and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*
 - b. Holy Spirit will cause you to remember
 - John 14:26-- *“the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

Interlude: The Sanhedrin’s Quandary: What are they to do with these men who have been with Jesus?

- Acts 4:15-17-- *“But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 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. 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.’”*
- Cannot deny that a notable miracle has occurred.
- Cannot allow this “name” to be spread to abroad.

B. A Core Commitment to obey God, no matter the cost.

- Acts 4:18-19-- *“So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 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.”*
1. **Peter understood need to submit to human authority**
 - 1 Peter 2:13-17-- *“Therefore, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”*
 2. **Conflict comes when man’s laws contradicts God’s commands.**

3. **Peter and John's "principled" response: Must obey God rather than man!**
 - Acts 4:19-- *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge."*
4. **Peter understood the consequences of disobedience.**
 - Daniel 6:10-- *"went home and in his upper room, with the windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."*
5. **The "unprincipled" Sanhedrin: Men pleasers**
 - Acts 4:21-- *"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."*

C. An Inner Compulsion to share the good news.

- Acts 4:20-- *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*
1. **The inner compulsion of Jeremiah, Amos, and Paul**
 - Jeremiah 20:9-- *"Then I said, 'I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.' But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not."*
 - Amos 3:7-8 -- *"Surely the Lord does nothing, unless He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophecy?"*
 - 1 Corinthians 9:16-- , *"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel."*
 2. **Do we have "holy heartburn"?**