

Small Group Guide

1/23/22: Acts 4:13-22 - "Cannot but Speak"

Sermon Outline

1. The Evidence (Acts 4:13-14)

***4 Undeniable Realities:**

1. The boldness of Peter and John
 - The same Peter that denied Jesus to a little girl
 2. They were uneducated, common men
 3. They had been with Jesus
 4. The healed man (4:14) - we don't know how he ended up there
- The Sanhedrin had nothing to say in response (v.14b)
 - Fulfillment of Luke 21:12-15

***Truths:**

- *Be bold in the face of opposition and trust God to lead you.*
- *Wherever God leads you, He goes with you.*
- *Effectiveness for Jesus is inseparable from communion with Jesus.*
- *Our testimony is our greatest gospel presentation.*

2. The Deliberation (Acts 4:15-17)

- Sent them out (Sanhedrin's custom)
- What shall we do with them? ("They are really messing things up")
- Notable sign - the healed man
 - The Sanhedrin was in a dilemma:
 - not to act - they could lose control
 - act too strongly - face ridicule from the people
- They couldn't deny the miracle (contradict it) but still chose to reject it
 - Living illustration of John 3:19

***Truths:**

- *The enemy can't deny what God has done in your life.*
- *Rejection of Jesus isn't from a lack of information about Jesus.*
- *Sin blinds us until God opens our eyes. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Acts 26:17-18)*
- *Pray for to God to open eyes of the lost*
 - Explains why people hear the gospel many times & finally understand

3. The Warning (Acts 4:18)

- Charged them = to order
- Set a precedence for future rebellion to this order
- Their preaching of Jesus wasn't popular but exclusive, true, and life/death.
- Enemies knew that the power was in Jesus not the apostles

***Truth:** *Expect resistance when it comes to Jesus.*

4. The Response (Acts 4:19-20)

- Christians are called to obey the government (1 Peter 2:13-17)
- There are limits of that obedience
 - to not do what God commands
 - to do what God forbids
- They knew that Jesus had told them to share this message
- They couldn't but speak of the things they had seen and heard
 - Jesus life, death, resurrection
 - forgiveness, acceptance, sanctification

***Truths:**

- *We honor the emperor, but we serve Jesus.*
- *The most worshipful thing you can do is be obedient.*
- ***"A Christian who doesn't witness is a contradiction in terms."***
(Adrian Rogers)

5. The Release (Acts 4:21-22)

- Not done because they wanted to be just
- Solely a political move to not get the people against them
- Healed man was beyond 40 years old (thought to be beyond fixing/healing)

***Truths:**

- *Moves of God should result in the praise of God. (v. 21)*
- *No one is beyond grace's reach (v. 22)*

Small Group Questions

- 1. What spoke to you from the Word or sermon?**
- 2. How is our effectiveness for Jesus connected to time spent with Jesus?**
- 3. What's your personal testimony? Why is it our greatest gospel presentation?**
- 4. Who are you praying for God to open their eyes?**
- 5. Why is it that we worship God most by being obedient to Him?**
- 6. What is God calling you to do? Have you been obedient? Why not?**