

MESSAGE NOTES

MAY 15, 2022

ACTS | FEARLESS COURAGE

ACTS 4:1-31

INTRODUCTION

BIG IDEA: The Holy Spirit and prayer fills us with courage and boldness to be a witness for Christ.

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION: Peter's Repeated Denials

Movement 1: The Holy Spirit fills us with courage to be bold witnesses. (cf Acts 4:5-22)

1. The Setting
2. The Key Question: By what power or name did you do this? (cf Deuteronomy 13:1-5)
3. The Spirit's Power Changed Peter
 - *"Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit."* (Mark 13:11)
4. Peter's Speech
 - a. Peter's answer is inspired by the Holy Spirit—he returns to Jesus and takes the similar approach as he did the day before with the crowd, and as he does, he is risking his life. (cf Deuteronomy 13:1-5)
 - i. It was Jesus Christ of Nazareth
 - ii. The One you crucified
 - iii. The One that God raised from the dead
 - iv. The One our Scriptures have talked about. The one who is the stone the builders rejected is the cornerstone as prophesied in Psalm 118:22.
 - v. The one and only one in whom salvation is found—there is no other name by which we must be saved.
5. The Council's Response (Acts 4:13-22)

Movement 2: The Holy Spirit's power and prayer gives us courage to be bold witnesses. (Acts 4:23-31)

- *"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."* (2 Peter 1:20-21)

BRINGING IT HOME

QUESTION: Who do you relate to: Peter in the courtyard denying Christ or Peter in the courtroom boldly proclaiming Christ?

1. Acts 4 is a wake up call to clearly see the world we live in—a world that conspires against God and against Jesus Christ.
2. This chapter reminds us that the world set against God is the world God loves and sent His son to. It's this world that He has called us to reach with the Good News of God's love for us in Christ.
3. Acts 4 reminds us to pray—for three things—things that turn cowards into courageous Christians.
 - a. Pray for God to fill us with His Spirit—this is God's will.
 - *"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery (bad sexual behavior). Instead, be filled with the Spirit."* (Ephesians 5:18)
 - b. Pray that God would give us the ability to speak His word with great boldness.
 - c. Pray that God would show up in great power—healing, performing signs and wonders through the name of Jesus and that people would turn to Him.