

HOLY BOLDNESS

Acts 4:9-33

(RA-2273, Program: 0319, Air date: 01.20.19)

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Are you a bold believer or a cowardly Christian?
 - i) There is in our world today the curse of cowardly Christians.
 - (1) Some do not want to be seen in the office with a Bible on their desks.
 - (2) Others do not want to be seen in a restaurant bowing their heads before their meal.
 - (3) They are afraid of being criticized or disliked.
- b) Acts 4:13
 - i) The word “boldness” in this passage is associated with God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) Acts 4:29
 - i) “Boldness” in this Scripture is associated with God the Father.
- d) Acts 4:31
 - i) “Boldness” here is associated with God the Holy Spirit.
- e) What is boldness?
 - i) Boldness is not arrogance.
 - (1) It is not being rude, crude, or being brazen.
 - (2) It is not getting in someone’s face and telling them off.
 - (3) It is not presumption.
 - ii) We are to be gentle, apt to teach, and in nothing give offense.
 - iii) Boldness is having the courage to stand for the Lord Jesus Christ in the face of opposition.
- f) The context for Acts 4 is the healing of the lame man at the gate called Beautiful.
 - i) Acts 3:6
 - ii) The Pharisees and Sadducees who hated Jesus could not deny the miracle but hoped to contain it by commanding the apostles not to preach anymore in Jesus’ name.
 - (1) The apostles refused to stop preaching Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Acts 4:9-13
 - (b) Simon Peter, who cowardly denied knowing Jesus at His trial, is now boldly proclaiming Jesus Christ.
 - (i) In today’s world, we are called arrogant, bigoted and narrow when we proclaim that salvation is found only through Jesus Christ.
 - (ii) But whatever they may call us, they ought also to call us Bible-believing Christians.
 - (iii) Acts 4:12
- g) The basis of our boldness is linked to the Holy Trinity.
 - i) The message today will show you three ways to be a bold believer rather than a cowardly Christian intimidated by Satan.
 - (1) Philippians 1:28

2) KEEP COMPANY WITH GOD THE SON (Acts 4:13)

- a) It is impossible to walk in the presence of Jesus Christ and be a coward.

- b) It was by Jesus' name and His presence that the lame man was healed.
 - i) Acts 4:10
 - c) Make certain that Jesus Christ is real to you.
 - i) Jesus Christ is here.
 - (1) Matthew 18:20
 - (a) This is the reason we should rejoice, sing and worship.
 - (b) He has not left us alone; He is here with us always.
 - (i) Matthew 28:20
 - ii) Boldness comes from knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.
 - d) The apostles were uneducated and unlearned, but they had been with Jesus.
- 3) HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD THE FATHER (Acts 4:24-29)
- a) The apostles were commanded not to preach anymore in the name of Jesus; yet, they asked God the Father for more boldness to do just that.
 - b) When we have a proper perspective and see God for who He really is, then we will have boldness.
 - i) The person who can kneel before God can stand before anyone else.
 - ii) One fear - a holy fear of God - removes all other fears.
 - c) The apostles had confidence in God as the Creator of all things.
 - i) Acts 4:24
 - d) The apostles had confidence in God as the Controller of all things.
 - i) Acts 4:25-28
 - ii) God has never lost control; God never says, "Oops."
 - e) The apostles had confidence in God as the Conqueror of all things.
 - i) Psalm 2:2, 6
 - (1) Sin cannot win, and faith cannot fail.
 - (2) Things are out of place in the world right now.
 - (a) The church is the bride, and the bride belongs with the Groom; and we will be at the rapture.
 - (b) The King belongs on the throne, and He will be when He comes again.
 - (c) Satan is the criminal, and he belongs in the dungeon; and he will be when Jesus comes again.
 - (3) Our problems are not too big for God.
 - ii) When the apostles were afraid, they took their eyes off of man and put their eyes on God.
 - (1) Proverbs 29:25
 - (2) We need to take our eyes off of our problems and place them upon God.
- 4) RECEIVE COURAGE FROM GOD THE SPIRIT (Acts 4:29-31)
- a) God the Holy Spirit will give us the courage we need to live for Him.
 - b) Acts 4:29
 - i) The Greek word for "servant" in this passage means "bond slave."
 - ii) Boldness is not for rebels.
 - (1) We will never have true boldness until we surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) We will not have boldness if there is any unconfessed sin, any un-surrendered area in our lives.

- (a) Proverbs 28:1
- c) The apostles wanted courage (and we need courage) to:
 - i) Express God's Word.
 - (1) Acts 4:29
 - (2) The apostles did not ask for safety, but for courage.
 - (a) They asked for the ability to do more of what got them into trouble in the first place.
 - (b) Perhaps the curse of the 21st Century is cowardly Christians who are not expressing God's Word.
 - ii) Extend God's hand.
 - (1) Acts 4:30
 - (2) Acts 5:12
 - (a) The word "by" in this passage actually means "through."
 - (b) Jesus Christ is doing the work through us.
 - (c) Anything we do that can be explained apart from Jesus Christ has no eternal value.
 - iii) Exalt God's Son.
 - (1) Acts 4:30
 - (a) The word "name" in this Scripture refers to the authority of Jesus Christ.
 - (2) We should never be afraid to lift the name of Jesus.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Acts 4:31, 33
 - i) When the apostles were filled with boldness, multitudes were swept into the Kingdom of Heaven.
- b) Many will come to Jesus today if we will stop being cowardly Christians.
- c) In order to have boldness, we must first know the Lord Jesus Christ personally.
Are you saved?
 - i) Acts 4:12
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31