

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Conquest

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 4:1-20

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Jesus Christ is alive.
 - i) Others die, and they stay dead.
 - ii) Jesus died, and He rose again.
- b) In today's message, we will discuss five resurrection facts that are found in the fourth chapter of the book of Acts.

2) HIS PERSECUTION CONTINUES (ACTS 4:1-2)

- a) Acts 4:1-2
- b) Because Jesus Christ is alive, He is still being persecuted.
- c) In Acts 4, these people were grieved that Jesus was being preached and that He is alive from the dead.
 - i) The apostles were being persecuted, but in the truest sense, it was the Lord Jesus who was being persecuted.
- d) The reason the apostles were being persecuted was because they had done a miracle.
 - i) Peter refused to take credit for the miracle.
 - (1) Acts 3:12
 - (2) Acts 4:10
 - ii) The religious leaders didn't like it.
 - (1) The people were beginning to follow the Lord Jesus.
 - (2) They thought that they were done with Jesus, but now there was a man who was healed.
 - (a) Peter said that they didn't do it.
 - (i) Jesus had done the miracle.
- e) When they were persecuting the apostles, they were persecuting the Lord Jesus.
 - i) The apostles were the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus.
- f) The Lord Jesus has a new body.
 - i) His new body is called the church, but He is still alive.
 - ii) When the Apostle Paul was on the road to Damascus, Jesus appeared to him.
 - (1) Acts 9:5
 - (a) Paul (Saul) might have responded that he was not persecuting the Lord Jesus, just these apostles.
 - (i) But when you persecute the church, you persecute Jesus.
- g) Jesus is not dead; He is alive.
 - i) You cannot persecute a dead man.
 - ii) Because He lives, His persecution continues.
- h) Why did they persecute Jesus, why will they persecute us, and why doesn't the world love the Lord Jesus?
 - i) One would think that the world would be glad to hear a message like this one.
 - ii) One would think that people would love the Lord Jesus, but they don't.

- iii) The world loves the baby Jesus.
 - (1) Nobody has difficulty with the baby Jesus.
 - iv) They don't persecute Jesus because He was born of a virgin in Bethlehem.
 - v) They don't persecute Jesus because of His teachings.
 - vi) They don't persecute Jesus because He healed the sick and fed the multitudes.
 - (1) The world likes that message.
 - vii) The world doesn't like the Jesus who came to destroy the works of the devil.
 - (1) That is the Jesus they persecute.
 - (2) They persecute the Jesus who is against murder, greed, pride, abortion, sodomy, and racial hatred.
 - (a) That is the Jesus the world cannot stand.
 - (3) They don't like the Jesus who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes unto the Father, but by Me."
 - (a) John 14:6
 - i) When we stand for Jesus, as the apostles did, the world will come down on us like a hammer.
 - i) All the artillery of Hell will be aimed at us, just like it was aimed at the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - j) If you are not being persecuted, then don't boast about it.
 - i) The Bible says that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 3:12
 - ii) Don't think that the world has become more like the church if there is no persecution.
 - (1) It is only because the church has gotten more worldly.
 - k) When we begin to let the living Christ live in us, we will find out that His persecution continues.
- 3) HIS PREACHING CONVINCES (ACTS 4:4)
- a) Acts 4:4
 - b) How were these uneducated fishermen able to stand up and preach and five thousand people come to Christ?
 - i) It was because Jesus lives.
 - ii) They were not dependent upon their power of oratory, their power of logic, or their winsomeness in order to bring people to Christ.
 - (1) They had the living Christ inside of them.
 - (2) Anything that we can talk someone into, someone else can talk them out of.
 - c) We are not preaching facts about a dead Christ of history.
 - i) We present a living Christ.
 - d) We are not dependent upon talking someone into believing in Jesus Christ.

- i) If eleven apostles who had seen Jesus with their own eyes could not convince Thomas of the resurrection, then we cannot convince others.
 - (1) When Thomas had an encounter with the living Christ, then he was convinced that Jesus is alive.
 - (2) John 20:19-29
 - e) What we need today is an encounter with Jesus Christ.
 - i) Not with the church, a pastor, or the choir, but we need to meet the living Christ.
 - ii) These people were brought into contact (by the Holy Spirit) to the living Christ, and they were totally convinced.
 - f) Other leaders come and they go and they die, but Jesus said, *"I am He that liveth and am alive forevermore."*
 - i) Revelation 1:18
 - g) It is an encounter with the living Christ that convinces people.
 - i) This is the reason why we don't have to depend upon our ability to cause others to believe.
 - ii) Our responsibility is just to bring others to an encounter with Jesus Christ.
 - h) There is a difference because we preach a living Christ.
- 4) HIS POWER CONFRONTS (ACTS 4:5-11)
- a) Acts 4:5-11
 - b) There was a man who had been healed.
 - i) There was the power of the living Christ, and they were confronted with it.
 - c) They thought that they were done with Jesus.
 - i) They put Him in the grave.
 - (1) They set a seal upon it.
 - (2) They said that He was finished, but He wasn't finished.
 - (a) The plan of salvation was finished.
 - ii) Matthew 27:40
 - (1) Instead of saying, "If You're the Son of God, come down from the cross," they should have gone to the tomb and said, "If You are the Son of God, then come out."
 - (a) Jesus Christ is shown to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.
 - (i) Romans 1:4
 - (ii) He is still alive.
 - iii) Peter told them that the same one they had crucified was the one who had healed this man.
 - (1) And now, they were confronted with the power of the living Christ.
 - (a) So are we in the world today.
 - (i) There are things happening in the world today that are being done by the hand of Jesus, and we cannot deny it.

1. Look at the evidence as to what the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is doing today.
 - d) Peter used an illustration that they all knew; he talked about the cornerstone.
 - i) Acts 4:11
 - ii) Solomon built his temple on Mt. Moriah.
 - (1) Solomon said that it was to be built without the noise of a chisel.
 - (a) So, the stones for the temple were cut from a great rock quarry underneath the Temple Mount.
 - iii) Jewish tradition says that there was one stone, a very special stone, that was crafted and sent up to the Temple Mount.
 - (1) It was there in the work yard.
 - (2) The workmen had to work around it, and sometimes they would stumble over it.
 - (a) But they didn't know what it was.
 - (3) It was moved over to the side of the work yard, and finally it fell into the brook in the valley of Kidron.
 - (4) The people in the quarry were told to send up the cornerstone.
 - (a) But it had already been sent.
 - (i) The stone the builders had rejected became the head of the corner.
 - (b) They had to go down into the valley and bring up that stone and set it in its place.
 - iv) Peter was saying that they thought they were done with Jesus.
 - (1) They thought He was in the tomb, but Jesus is the one who is the head of the corner.
 - (2) He is a living Christ, and He is still doing miracles.
 - e) Acts 4:12
 - i) Jesus is not a good way to Heaven.
 - ii) Jesus is not the best way to Heaven.
 - iii) Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
 - iv) It is not the name of Buddha, not the name of Confucius, not the name of Allah, but the name of Jesus.
 - v) It is not the name of Abraham, not the name of Moses, not the name of any of the great saints.
 - vi) There is only one name "*whereby we must be saved.*"
 - f) His power confronts us today.
- 5) HIS PRESENCE COMPELS (ACTS 4:13)
 - a) Acts 4:13
 - i) Peter and John had been in His presence.
 - b) Peter wasn't known for boldness.
 - i) He had cringed before a maid.
 - (1) He had said that he never knew the Lord Jesus.
 - (2) He had cursed, swore, and denied the Lord Jesus.

- (a) Matthew 26:69-75
 - ii) But now he had seen the risen Lord, and he was compelled.
 - (1) You could not quiet him.
- c) When we are in the presence of Jesus Christ, something happens to us.
 - i) When we're in the presence of the risen Lord, just as an iron is put in the fire and left in the fire, before long it gets red hot.
 - (1) Not only is the iron in the fire, but the fire is also in the iron.
 - ii) When we spend time with the Lord Jesus, we will be as bold as Peter and John.
 - (1) Jesus' presence will compel us.
- d) What was it that caused the people to marvel?
 - i) It was the boldness that Peter and John had for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) Churches today need an epidemic of holy boldness.
 - i) We will get it by spending time in the presence of Jesus.
- f) What is holy boldness?
 - i) It is not arrogance.
 - (1) A lot of people who think they are bold are just arrogant.
 - (2) Holy boldness is humble boldness.
 - (3) These men were not arrogant, but they were bold.
 - ii) It is not self-confidence.
 - (1) You can have self-confidence that will turn people off.
 - iii) It is not human courage nor presumption.
 - iv) Holy boldness is knowing that Jesus is alive.
 - (1) If you are truly convinced that Jesus Christ walked out of the grave, then could you ever be intimidated?
- g) When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, they marveled and took knowledge of them.
 - i) Acts 4:13
 - ii) They said that Peter and John were unlearned men, but they had been with Jesus.
- h) We need an epidemic of holy boldness; not to be ashamed of the Lord Jesus.
- i) Peter and John faced the equivalence of the Supreme Court.
 - i) They were from Galilee, the hill country.
 - ii) They were fishermen.
 - iii) They were in front of the highest rulers of the land.
 - (1) Yet, they were absolutely uninhibited with faces like the noon day sun.
 - iv) They took a stand for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) They would not shut up, let up, or back up.
 - (2) They preached Jesus.
 - (3) The way we get this type of boldness is by spending time with the living Lord Jesus Christ.
- j) His presence compels us.
 - i) We cannot be ashamed.
 - ii) We cannot back off.

- 6) HIS PEOPLE CONFESS (ACTS 4:14-20)
 - a) Acts 4:14-20
 - i) Verse 20 is the key verse in this passage of Scripture.
 - ii) The religious leaders didn't want this message out because of the power of the message.
 - b) You might as well have told the sun not to shine as to tell these men that they couldn't preach a risen Christ.
 - i) Why?
 - (1) Peter and John had seen Jesus.
 - (2) Because He lives, His people confess.
 - ii) Anyone who has known that Christ is alive cannot keep quiet.
 - c) Acts 4:20
 - d) A witness tells what he has seen and heard.
 - i) Some people don't witness because they haven't seen or heard anything.
 - ii) A person who has seen and heard that Jesus Christ is alive cannot be made to keep quiet about it.
 - iii) If you are not sharing Jesus Christ, then you don't understand that He is alive.
 - (1) You haven't seen anything.
 - (2) You haven't heard anything.
 - e) Acts 5:42
 - i) Evangelism in the New Testament was not an eight-day meeting where revivalists or evangelists were brought in to preach.
 - ii) In the New Testament, these Christians were all sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and they were always sharing it.
 - (1) Why?
 - (a) They had seen Him.
 - (b) They knew Jesus was alive.
 - iii) The early church didn't have a printing press, buses, the media, or a church building.
 - (1) Yet, they turned that early world upside down and inside out for Jesus Christ.
 - iv) They did so much with so little.
 - (1) We do so little with so much.
 - f) Jesus is alive.
 - i) His people confess it.
 - ii) Would you like to confess it?
 - 7) CONCLUSION
 - a) Jesus Christ is risen indeed.
 - i) Let's get that in our hearts and in our minds.
 - b) Because He is alive, His persecution will continue.
 - i) People will still persecute Him.

- (1) The way that they are going to persecute Him is by persecuting you.
 - (a) Wear that persecution like a badge of honor.
- c) Because He is alive, His preaching convinces.
 - i) Don't feel like when you teach, preach, or witness, that it is up to you.
 - (1) All you do is to bring them into an encounter with the living Christ.
 - (2) It is Jesus who convinces.
- d) His power confronts.
 - i) His power is real in the world today.
 - ii) Jesus Christ is still alive and well.
 - (1) The Christ that walked the shores of Galilee is alive through His new body, the church.
- e) His presence compels.
 - i) Stay in the presence of Jesus.
 - (1) There will be a holy boldness about you.
 - (2) You will not be ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) His people confess.
 - i) We cannot but speak, tell, and preach the things that we have seen and heard.
- g) New Testament Christianity is supernatural.
 - i) It cannot be explained.
 - ii) It cannot be denied.
 - iii) It will not be intimidated.
 - iv) It must not be ignored.
- h) Christ lives.
 - i) Do you?
 - (1) Not do you exist, but do you live?
 - ii) Jesus said to people whose hearts were already pumping that He had come that they might have life and have it abundantly.
 - (1) John 10:10
 - (2) How do you get this life?
 - (a) The risen Lord imparts it when you trust Him.
- i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- j) 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
 - v) John 3:16