

Moving from Fear to Boldness

Introduction

- The setting
- The reason for the meeting
- The purpose of the meeting
 - Their confidence was shaken.
 - They lacked boldness.

Key Focus of the Passage

Acts 4:24-30 gives us 4 basic ingredients for boldness as displayed by the early church in our witness and service for our Lord.

1. They had Reverence for Him v. 24
 - Who was present? Companions
 - What is the nature of this reverence that we see here?
 - Focuses on who He is.
 - Equivalent to “Hallowed be your Name”
 - He is God and I am not.
 - More than just respect.
 - This is not equals talking with each other.
 - Boldness must begin here.
 - Why is it so difficult to have a sense of reverence before God?
 - Our true character
 - The danger of Pride
 - Without Him I can do nothing
2. They had Confidence in Him v. 25-28
 - What was the source of that confidence?
 - Go to the Scriptures
 - The Scriptures permeated their thinking and planning.
 - What did the scriptures have to say about the current situation?
 - Psalm 2
 - Messianic Psalm
 - Note the players
 - Note the plan
 - Note God’s sovereignty
 - How did they acquire such confidence?
 - They “devoted” themselves
 - Something had gripped them
 - How can I begin to do that in my life?

3. They had Reliance upon Him v. 29-30
 - What was the basis of this reliance?
 - God is at work in the lives of His people.
 - God empowers His people through Holy Spirit
 - God will complete His work.
 - What did this reliance look like?
 - Bond-servants
 - Purchased – 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - Obedience to the Master
 - How did they come to have such confidence in God?
 - They had first-hand experience of God’s Faithfulness
 - They had seen and heard God at work
 - Holy Spirit came
 - Heard the truth in their own language
 - Thousands had believed
 - Lame man healed
4. They were Surrendering to Him v. 31
 - Their response to the Lord Psalm 2:10-12
 - Submitted to the King (Jesus)
 - They Worshipped the King with one accord
 - Result: God worked through them
 - They Surrendered to the King
 - Did the work in the “name” of Jesus
 - Result: Put aside their pride, their abilities, etc to do the work for His glory and His glory alone.
 - How do you begin?
 - Consider Philippians 3:4-10
 - Life Response #2
 - Can we say with Paul:
 - “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain”
 - “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

What This Means

- Are we really serious about serving our Lord here in Fellowship Bible Church?
- Do we even care if we speak with confidence in the name of Jesus?
- Are we even concerned about having boldness in serving the Lord?
- If our answer is “Yes” then....

Next Steps

We need to follow in the steps of the early church and:

- Reverence Him
- Have absolute Confidence in Him
- Have total Reliance on Him
- Surrender to Him

Life Response:

1. Prayerfully consider Galatians 5:22-23.

This is a very familiar passage of Scripture. You may even have a framed version on a wall in your home. But how do you get that from being just memorable verses on a plaque to a vital part of your life? On Monday, determine which slice of the fruit of the Spirit that is the most lacking in your life. Begin by asking the Lord to give you opportunities to exercise that particular slice. For example, if you are having trouble with showing kindness, ask the Lord to bring someone into your life that needs to be shown kindness. If you are struggling with gentleness, begin by finding the meaning of gentleness and then ask the Lord to show you ways to build gentleness into your life. Work your way through each of the slices that make up the fruit of the Spirit.

2. Prayerfully consider Philippians 3:4-10.

Take a piece of paper and fold it lengthwise. On the left side, at the top, write Assets and on the right side, at the top, write Liability. Now prayerfully and honestly begin writing down all those things in which “you” have placed your confidence. Those things might include your education, your degree, your job title, that next promotion that you are seeking, your retirement fund, your 401K, your portfolio, your family, your heritage, your home, your car, etc. Consider what it is about that particular item that you just can’t let go of. Why are you placing such confidence in that thing? Now consider what it would take for you to move that item from the left to the right side of the page. Are you willing to surrender yourself to the Lord so that you could honestly consider that as garbage before God? Prayerfully work your way all the way down that list.