

April 29, 2018

**“Empowered: The Church on Fire!”**

*“A Journey through the Book of Acts”*

**“The Fire Builds Boldness”**

*“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13*

### **A. Boldness despite opposition...**

*“The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.” Acts 4:1*

1. Peter and John were confronted by the temple guard.  
(The temple guard was a priestly role that policed the temple as most temples had wealth and served as a type of bank. The Romans tolerated this position. They preserved order and often rose to higher positions in the priestly order.)
2. Peter and John were confronted by the Sadducees.  
(Sadducees differed from the Pharisees. The Sadducees supported Herod and the dynasty. They were wealthier, more powerful, friendlier with Rome, held the offices of Chief Priest and High Priest, and the majority of seats in the Sanhedrin. Although the Pharisees appealed more to the common, working class, and controlled the synagogues, the Sadducees controlled the temple and were more aristocratic. The Sadducees did not believe in an afterlife, the resurrection of the dead, nor angels or demons. They were more literal and did not accept oral traditions.)
3. Peter and John were arrested and jailed.
4. The number of believers continued to rise...about 5,000!

*“But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.” Acts 4:4*

### **B. A bold response...**

1. The next day, Peter and John, were brought before rulers, elders, teachers, the high priest and his family.

*“The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest’s family.” Acts 4:5-6*

2. Peter boldly spoke about the Jesus they crucified.

*“It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.”*

*Acts 4:10b*

3. Peter boldly spoke that salvation is only found in Jesus.

*“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*

4. When they saw the courage of Peter and John, they knew they had been with Jesus.

*“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13*

5. Peter and John were commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

*“But Peter and John replied, ‘Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’” Acts 4:19-20*

6. Peter and John were threatened and released.

*“For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.” Acts 4:22*

7. The threats only produced a great, powerful prayer meeting!

*“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly.” Acts 4:31*

### **C. A bold fire blazes in the hearts of the disciples...**

*“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all...” Acts 4:33*

1. The disciples were passionate about their beliefs.
2. The disciples were devoted to the message of Jesus Christ.
3. The disciples were generous.

*“that there were no needy persons among them...” Acts 4:34a*

### **D. The power of the Holy Spirit can light a fire in our hearts if we...**

1. Keep our focus on the power of our God rather than the opposition around us.
2. Keep focused on the power of God to save in spite of all obstacles.
3. Remember, it is God we must obey first and His Word cannot be compromised.
4. Hold fast to truth, in spite of our world culture.
5. Remain more concerned that people see Jesus more than they see us.
6. Keep the power of prayer as our source of strength.
7. Live generously for God!

*“As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”” Acts 4:20*

If you have made a personal decision to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, please send us a text so we can celebrate with you.

**Simply Text: IChooseJesus**

**To: 88202**