

Readings

Scripture

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." ¹⁸So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." ²¹And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

- Acts 4:5-22 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Holy Boldness
Acts 4:5-22

The Acts of the Apostles
Stephen Baldwin

Believers are transformed by the life changing reality of the risen, exalted Savior.

What are the results of this transformation?

Three things:

Believers bear testimony to the risen Christ. (Acts 4:5-12)

- In the face of unbelief
 - By the power of the Spirit
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Believers endure persecution. (Acts 4:3, 5, 13-18)

- When taken captive
 - When threatened and intimidated
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Believers have holy boldness. (Acts 4:19-22)

- Refusing to be silenced
 - With unshakable confidence
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Reflection Questions

(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- How did those who heard Peter preach respond? (from verses 1-4)
- What specifically were the members of the court reacting to when they arrested Peter and John?
- As followers of Jesus do we face anything similar from people with position and power?
- Is this persecution?
- Have you ever experienced intimidation for being a follower of Jesus?
- How would you characterize the response of Peter and John to the intimidation of the political and religious authorities?
- What made Peter and John respond as they did?
- Why are we often so fearful?
- What could give you boldness like Peter and John had?