



“Opposition Begins” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | June 6, 2021

**Acts 4:3-13; (24-31)** And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

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

13 Now 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...

(24... “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ““Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in

Intro Reflection

What does Tim say to people when they ask about All Saints and its stance on LGBTQ and how was this a segue in to his statement that it’s hard to be misunderstood and it’s harder still to be opposed?

Background

In Acts 3 a man has just been healed and as he follows, joyfully clinging to Peter and John, Peter asks the people why they are astonished, telling them they had denied and bullied their God; Jesus died and rose and he has made this man strong. This is a taste of what’s to come when he makes all things new. Salvation and restoration comes only through Jesus.

Discuss:

1. Tim’s three points were three questions about Acts 4. Review the passage by discuss the answers in light of the passage.
  - i. Who’s angry?
  - ii. What’s wrong?
  - iii. What should we do?
2. Why were the Jewish authorities angry?
  - i. What did Tim mean when he said that the gospel is not good news if your world is good?
  - ii. After quoting, “Absolute power corrupts absolutely” and “Great men are almost always bad men” Tim said that we have power and cited a variety of positions of power that those in our church body hold. What are some of the positions of power we hold?
  - iii. What positions of power do you hold?
  - iv. How do we wield our worldly power?
3. At the time of the writing of Acts, the universality of the gospel was problematic. The Jewish authorities had a hard time grasping that salvation was for the poor, the uneducated and the like. They did not want to hear that they had been reading their own stories wrong. The Roman empire was also pluralistic in that many religious were “permitted” as long as the citizens still pledged worship to Caesar. Today, the universality of the gospel is problematic because our society is also pluralistic. Today our culture maintains that many beliefs can coexist; thus broad, universal, exclusive statements of truth are frowned upon, seen as a dangerous and arrogant.
  - i. Have you been made to feel dangerous and arrogant?
  - ii. Do you adapt your message to the culture?
4. Why does BOLDNESS conclude this message in Acts? Highlight or circle each time it appears in Acts 4. Read the context, the traits and actions around each mention.
5. You have power in this world to make yourself a servant. What are specific ways you can use your positions of power and your giftings to serve?

vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed' —

27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.)

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:15-24**

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**Mark 10:42-45** And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>44</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be slave<sup>[b]</sup> of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

#### Conclusion/Application

The world needs absolute truth that doesn't oppress or abuse but transforms people into people of love, who serve, give and care, and who, as Jesus did, boldly embrace rejection. Only universal truth that says God died for his enemies is a universal truth that transforms people into people that love.

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”  
Acts 4:29 Amen