

Fuel For The Fire

Summary

This sermon, drawn from Acts 4:1-4, centers on the theme that extraordinary transformation is possible in a short span of time — illustrated by the 50-day period between Jesus' resurrection and the explosive growth of the early church. The preacher draws a parallel between that pivotal 50-day window and the 50 days ahead for his own congregation, CrossView Church. He traces the disciples' journey from fear, shame, and hiding to bold, Spirit-filled witnesses, noting that the same religious leaders who thought they had extinguished the "Jesus fire" by crucifying Christ found it impossible to stop a movement now fueled by 120 Spirit-filled believers — which quickly grew to 5,000. The sermon emphasizes that the gospel's power lies not in sophistication but in its direct answer to the human heart's deepest need: forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ. The closing call is for the congregation to shed shame and silence, embrace their identity as forgiven, resurrection people, and become active witnesses in their community.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon opens with the question, "How much could change in your life in the next 50 days?" What would need to shift — in your habits, your faith, or your relationships — for real transformation to take place?
2. The disciples went from hiding and denying Christ to boldly proclaiming him in just 50 days. What do you think made the biggest difference in that change? What parallels do you see in your own spiritual journey?
3. The preacher describes the Holy Spirit as fire that cannot be extinguished. Where do you see that "fire" alive in the church today — locally or globally?
4. Peter and John stayed focused on one central message: Jesus crucified, resurrected, and forgiving. In what ways can we as individuals or as a church drift from that simple message, and what draws us back to it?
5. The sermon suggests that shame and division are tools the Enemy uses to silence the church. Are there areas in your own life where shame or guilt have kept you from being a witness? How does the gospel speak to that?
6. The growth from 120 to 5,000 is described as every new disciple becoming "more fuel for the fire." How does your own faith and witness contribute to — or potentially hinder — the growth of your local church community?