



PARDON'S ON THE TABLE
Acts...Now It's Our Time – Part 3
Pastor Craig Coulter

Acts 4 (CSB)

(v. 1) *While they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple police, and the Sadducees confronted them,*

(v. 2) *because they were annoyed that they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.*

(v. 3) *So they seized them and took them into custody until the next day since it was already evening.*

(v. 4) *But many of those who heard the message believed, and the number of the men came to about 5,000.*

Whenever the gospel of Jesus Christ is faithfully proclaimed –

- There will be people who receive the offer of PARDON and rejoice in the Lord.
- AND – there will be people who are offended by the idea that they need a pardon.

(v. 15) *After they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves,*

(v. 16) *saying, "What should we do with these men? For an obvious sign has been done through them, clear to everyone living in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.*

Some respond to the gospel:

"I don't want to believe –

...because I want to do what I want to do.

...because I know better than God.

Therefore – I'm going to find REASONS not to believe."

(v. 17) *But so that this does not spread any further among the people, let's threaten them against speaking to anyone in this name again."*

(v. 18) *So they called for them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*

(v. 19) Peter and John answered them, "Whether it's right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide;

(v. 20) for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

(v. 21) After threatening them further, they released them. They found no way to punish them because the people were all giving glory to God over what had been done.

(v. 22) For this sign of healing had been performed on a man over 40 years old.

Does my desire to have people like me –
...cause me to sell out to the teachings of Jesus?

They loved the glory that comes from men – more than the glory that comes from God.
(John 12:43)

How then should the church operate in a culture that is increasingly hostile to us?

(v. 29) "And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all **boldness**,

(v. 30) while you stretch out your hand for healing, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

(v. 31) When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.

1. We are **BOLD**.
2. We are **GENEROUS**.
3. We are **TESTIFIERS**.
4. We are **UNMOVED** and rooted in the Word of God!

(v. 33) With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them.

(v. 34) For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold,

(v. 35) and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.