



## **Sermon Outline: ACT(ion)S - Week 3 - Reacting with Boldness**

### **Scripture References:**

**Acts 4:12**

**Acts 4:19-21**

**Acts 4:23-31**

**Acts 4:32-33**

**Malachi 3:10**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

**Acts 4:36-37**

**Acts 5:1-4**

**Acts 5:11-12**

**Acts 5:13-16**

### **I. Introduction**

- The early church was united in purpose and focused on Jesus Christ.
- People were being saved, baptized, filled with the Spirit, and healed.
- Acts 4: Peter declares that there is no other name by which man can be saved.
- The Sanhedrin was shocked at Peter and John's boldness.
- Their identity: "Men that had been with Jesus."
- The undeniable miracle of the healed lame man.

### **II. Boldness in the Face of Opposition**

- Acts 4:19-21: Peter and John refuse to be silent.
- Boldness is not always something we choose but sometimes something we are thrust into.
- Illustration: The reluctant hero on the cruise ship.
- We often see ourselves as bold like David or Elijah but find ourselves hiding instead.

### **III. The Reaction: Prayer for Boldness**

- Acts 4:23-31: The believers' response was prayer.
- Five key elements of their prayer:

1. **Prayed in One Accord (Unity) (vs. 24)**
  2. **Looked to the Word for Guidance (vs. 25)**
  3. **Recognized God's Sovereignty (vs. 26)**
  4. **Asked for God's Intervention (vs. 29-30)**
  5. **Allowed God to Respond (vs. 31)**
- God showed up, filling them with the Holy Spirit and empowering them.

#### **IV. Generosity and Growth in the Church**

- Acts 4:32-37: The early church shared what they had out of love.
- This generosity was not mandated but inspired by grace.
- Biblical examples of giving:
  - Malachi 3:10 - "Bring the whole tithe... test me in this."
  - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - "God loves a cheerful giver."
- The heart of giving: Not about wealth but about obedience and trust.
- Example: Barnabas, a man of encouragement, gives selflessly.
- His giving was significant in his future ministry.

#### **V. The Contrast: Ananias and Sapphira**

- Acts 5:1-4: Their giving was deceitful and self-serving.
- There was no requirement to give, but their sin was in lying to God.
- Their actions could have jeopardized the credibility of the gospel.
- The lesson: Our motives in giving and serving matter to God.

#### **VI. The Result: Continued Boldness and Growth**

- Acts 5:11-16: The power of God continues in the church.
- The apostles followed the same pattern:
  1. Unity in prayer
  2. Seeking God's Word
  3. Trusting His sovereignty
  4. Asking for intervention
  5. Allowing God to respond
- People were not casually joining but truly committing to Christ.
- Signs, wonders, and healings followed their boldness.

#### **VII. Application and Challenge**

- The book of Acts is not just history but a template for church growth.
- Our boldness in witnessing matters.
- Example: The challenge of leading 100 people to Christ this year.
- Evangelism happens in everyday moments—break rooms, job sites, conversations.
- Prayer: Ask the Lord how we can support the kingdom and step out in boldness.