

## **Marked - Called to Boldness Acts 4**

**What is the boldest thing you have ever done?**

**What made you confident in your moment of boldness? What do our requests to God reveal about our level of boldness?**

As we will see in Acts 4, God's people prayed for and received boldness to share the gospel in the midst of persecution. We, too, must pray for boldness in our quest to make disciples of all nations.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 4:1-7.

**What were the reasons for the opposition of the Sadducees to Peter's healing and sermon from Acts 3? What does Peter's response to the beggar in Acts 3:1-10 reveal about his belief in God?**

Peter understood that God wants to use us to bless others. He expects us to do only what we can, to give only what we have. Then we are to trust Him to work through our efforts to minister to others in the name of Jesus.

**How did those in the temple listening to Peter and John react to their message? What various responses have you received from people when you've shared about your relationship with Jesus?**

**What was the significance of the question the council asked Peter and John in verse 7? Have you ever felt like you didn't have the authority to share the gospel because of a lack of education or position?**

The Sadducees judged the apostles and treated them with scorn because they were not well educated (4:13). To the Sanhedrin these disciples were nobodies, ordinary men who had assumed religious authority to which they were not entitled.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 4:8-22.

**What motivated Peter to again share the gospel of Jesus with the religious leaders? What is the main point of his testimony in these verses? If you were arrested, brought before a judge, and accused of testifying and witnessing about Jesus Christ, how do you think you would respond?**

Verse 8 notes that Peter was “filled with the Holy Spirit,” which gave him the courage to speak honestly before his interrogators. To be filled with the Spirit means to submit to His control and power. No matter how “ordinary” we feel, the Holy Spirit works through us in extraordinary ways.

**Do you notice a difference in your courage and enthusiasm for the gospel when you spend quality time with God? Explain some specific ways it might be evident to others that you have been with Jesus. What does the fact that the men seemed so “ordinary” communicate about the work of God and His gospel?**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 4:23-31.

**What did the believers ask God for? Why? What does this reveal about their priorities in prayer? How does that compare to our priorities when we pray? What are we telling God when we pray for boldness?**

Having embraced God’s plan in their prayer, the believers now requested God to perform a great and visible work. The powerful prayer composed three main requests. First, they wanted the Lord to consider the threats from their opposition. Second, they sought bravery in the face of danger, boldness to proclaim the gospel without fear, and power to prevail in the midst of overwhelming odds. Third, they asked God to visually affirm His approval by confirming their bold witness with God-size miracles. Specifically, they wanted God’s hand, which stands for His provision, His strength, His work, displayed miraculously in their midst.

**What happens to a community that prays together regularly? What are the dangers of a group of believers, like our group, not praying together?**

APPLICATION

**What task or problem are you facing that could benefit from intercessory prayer? What specific things can we pray for on your behalf? When was the last time we prayed solely for the sake of the gospel and not our own benefit? How would this kind of prayer change our attitudes and actions?**

Encourage each group member to pray, thanking God for His work in and through our group. Pray that we would be concerned for the spread of the gospel and that we would have boldness in our own encounters with those opposed to the Christian faith.