



SERMON SINGLES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

Who Have You Been With?

Acts 4:1-22

NOTES INTRODUCTION I want to ask you a question. When people are around you, do they know who you have been with? I want people to know that when they are around me there is one person I have been with, that I walk with, that I live with, that I stay with every day and His name is Jesus. That raises the big question, "How can people know that I have been with Jesus? What will be true of me and true of you if we have been with Jesus? What are the marks of a person who has been with Jesus?" You are going to see in this message that what was true of these men in Acts chapter 4 can be, should be, and will be true of us if we have been with Jesus. **KEY POINTS** 1. You Will Have The Compassion To Serve Humbly Keep in mind that back in the days described in today's key passage, beggars were nothing more than burdens. They were a drain on society. The vast majority of people who had seen this begging man day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year paid no attention to him. All of his begging and crying was falling on deaf ears until Peter and John came along. But Peter and John took the time to show this man compassion because they had been with Jesus and they saw Jesus show people compassion time and time again. Jesus was a servant at heart, and He had a servant's heart. He said, "I did not come to be served, but to serve." Have you been with Jesus? If you say you have then I have a question for you, "Where are you serving in your church? Where are you serving in your community? serving in your neighborhood?" If you are like Jesus, you have the compassion to serve humbly. 2. You Will Have The Courage To Stand Boldly Another thing that happens when you have been with Jesus is that you have the courage and boldness to stand up for what you believe in. When they faced opposition as recorded in Acts chapter 4, Peter and John took a stand. They said there is only one word of salvation and that is the name of Jesus. There is only one way of salvation and that is the death of Jesus. There is only one work of salvation and that is the resurrection of Jesus.

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Nobody would have liked this back in that day. The Romans wouldn't like it with all their gods. The Greeks would like it with all their gods. The Jews wouldn't like it because they didn't even believe Jesus was God. But these men didn't care what the world thought. They didn't go along to get along. They had the courage to stand boldly because they had been with Jesus.

3. You Will Have The Conviction To Speak Truthfully

I want to point out that the real reason Peter and John got in hot water was not because of the miracle they performed, but because of the message that they preached. "They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead" (Acts 4:2).

The world has no problem with Jesus as long as He is not on a cross or not out of a tomb. If you put Him on that cross and once you bring Him out of that tomb, then you have to say there is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved. There is no other way to God except through Jesus. He alone is the way, the truth, and the life and therefore every religion is false and no other religious leader, teacher, or preacher should be followed except Jesus.

But this is the truth we will have the conviction to speak with no hesitation when we have been with Jesus. No matter how much backlash we get, we can have confidence in speaking the truth when we are spending time in the presence of the Lord and becoming more like Him.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	Do you think people can tell you've been with Jesus by the way you live your
	life? Why or why not?

2. When was the last time you had the opportunity to show compassion and serve someone else? How did you respond in that situation?

3. Have you ever had to take a bold stand for your faith, and it cost you something? What did you learn from that experience?	

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