

Acts 4 –10 May 2020

“Out of Season Witnessing”

Introduction

Act 1 - Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended to be seated at the right-hand of the Father.

Act 2 - There will be this “Age of the Church” empowered by His HS where He pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD

Act 3 – Thru healing of the lame man, the Apostles lived & spoke their witness and offered a choice

Act 4 – We’ll see, we’re not being a witness for Jesus in a vacuum, there will be side-effects.

The events of chap 3 are having side-effects in chap 4

Turn to II Tim 4:1-2 or 4:1-5

“Instant” – Stand, showing yourself present

“In or out of season” – In planned or unplanned times, in convenient or inconvenient times

Act 3 the Apostles gave witness of Jesus “in season”
now chap 4 they give witness “out of season”.

Today, 6 Side-effects of being ready in S.E.A.S.O.N.

1st side-effect of being ready in S.E.A.S.O.N. is **the
Stirring of the people (Chap 4:1-7)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. The religious leaders are stirred! If they’re gonna be mad at you, be sure they’re mad b/c you’re preaching the Gospel - Christ’s resurrection
2. Cause a commotion about things that matter not trivial things or uncertain things.

Read Vs 3-4

1. It wasn’t just the religious leaders that were stirred! It was the rest of the people also!
2. People are stirred when they see true commitment. (Willing to go to jail)

Read Vs 5-7

1. They're asking, "Who's behind all this?", "By Whose authority are you doing this?", "What or Who gives you the right?"
2. Listen Christian, Jesus Christ has given you the liberty and right to preach salvation to the world!
3. Our allegiance is ultimately to Him above all!
 - a. How do you fly your flags?

2nd side-effect of being ready in S.E.A.S.O.N. is **further Enlightenment of the people (Chap 4:8-12)**

Read Vs 8-12

1. Vs 9 – Peter says, "Are we being judged b/c we've done these 'good deeds'?"
 - a. Ahab accused Elijah (Read I Kin 18:17-18)
 - b. What you're offering Christian is a great thing, don't let them tell you otherwise!
 - c. You have something essential to offer!

2. Vs 10-11 – Peter brings further enlightenment to the OT showing Jesus is the fulfillment of “the stone which the builders refused” from Psm 118.
3. Not only is Jesus a “Stone”, He’s “The Stone”!
 - a. Only way to salvation!

3rd side-effect of being ready in S.E.A.S.O.N. is **further Advancement of Jesus name (Chap 4:13-18)**

Read Vs 13

1. The preacher/teacher’s goal is the advancement of Jesus name and glory.
2. What does it take to be an ordained pastor?
 - a. Character – Meeting requirements of I Tim 3
 - b. Call of God
 - i. Exo 3-4 – Call of Moses
 - ii. Gal 1-2 – Call of Paul
 - c. Confirmation - Men agreeing you’ve “been with Jesus” (You know Him & His Word)
 - d. Schooling is optional – Could be good or bad

Read Vs 14-16

1. Remember, these are the priests and leaders talking.
2. Many priests are getting saved (Read Acts 6:7)

Read Vs 17-18

1. Jesus received the recognition and glory for their actions.
2. They have caused the masses (and the leader's) minds to be thinking about Jesus

4th side-effect of being ready in S.E.A.S.O.N. is **the Simple Standard of Separation (Chap 4:19-22)**

Read Vs 19-22

1. The Simple Standard of when to Separate from the world is when earthly authorities disagree with God's written, eternal standard, the Word of God.

2. Some would say, you can only rebel against the world if they tell you not to teach in Jesus name.
 - a. I could not disagree more
 - b. This thinking doesn't take into account the entire Word of God
3. As Christ's Church, we've been called to do many things, there are many standards we can't compromise!
 - a. We need Biblical fellowship, including the laying on of hands for most sick people
 - i. James 5:14, Acts 2:42-44, Heb 10:23-25
 - b. We need to conduct Biblical Baptism
 - i. Matt 28:19, Act 2:41
 - c. We need to conduct Biblical Communion
 - i. Act 2:42, I Cor 11:33
4. If an earthly authority tells us we can't do all of these things, then it's time to respectfully disagree!
5. The church must fulfill its commission from Jesus Christ, partial obedience is disobedience.

5th side-effect of being ready in S.E.A.S.O.N. is
Optimism in prayer (Chap 4:23-30)

Read Vs 23-28

1. Their prayer acknowledges that God told them ahead of time that Christ & His msg would be persecuted.
2. That can be positive, b/c this was supposed to happen.

Read Vs 29-30

1. The Apostles are saying, “God, they’re still persecuting your Christ’s message thru us”.
2. They’re praying to do more!
3. They’re asking for power to speak in the face of danger.
4. They’re asking for power to help others.
5. They’re asking for courage to proclaim the life-changing power of the resurrection of Christ.

6th side-effect of being ready in S.E.A.S.O.N. is **the Nurture of the church (Chap 4:31-37)**

Read Vs 31-33

1. Nurture – to care for or encourage the growth and development of someone
2. Experiencing the activity of God in your life is God's way of nurturing us.
3. When everyone is humble to accept nurture and development, there's a unifying affect.
4. It's a lot easier to remain unified when you center your activities around the essential truths of the teaching of Christ and His resurrection!

Read Vs 34-37

1. Ask who has a need and meet it.
2. Holy Spirit gifts us to serve and help.
3. Read John 13:35 - ...by this shall all men know
4. As Christ nurtures us, we nurture each other!

Conclusion

So as we're using our life as a living witness for Christ, there will be side effects (out of S.E.A.S.O.N.)

1. A Stirring of the people

- a. God's Word is life fire; it will affect more than your direct audience, be ready.

2. Enlightenment of the people

- a. When they ask questions, they'll be paying attention to the answer from God's Word

3. Advancement of Jesus name

- a. Many priests were saved b/c of this, God wants to reach even those we don't intent to talk with.

4. A Standard of separation

- a. There needs to be clear understanding where our allegiance lies.

5. Optimism in prayer

- a. Bold actions prompt bold prayers.

6. The Nurture of the Church

- a. As Christ nurtures us, we nurture each other