



I. Courage in the Everyday Rhythms of Life

Acts 4:1-4

[1] And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, [2] greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. [3] And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. [4] But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

(Acts 4:1-4 ESV)



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II. Courage Tested by Opposition

Acts 4:5-7



[5] On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, [6] with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the highpriestly family. [7] And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

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III. Courage Empowered by the Spirit

Acts 4:8

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...

(Acts 4:8a ESV)

[13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

(Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV)

"The Spirit took possession of his mind, saturated his emotions, compelled his will, and energized his body... Peter and John's boldness before the Sanhedrin gives us the assurance that we will be given the wisdom, discernment, knowledge, and power to be faithful and obedient in any circumstance or relationship."

(Ogilvie, *Acts*, p. 97)

"An undeniable sign of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit is boldness. It's the inner delight of a liberated person expressed in daring. In the midst of human impotence and the timidity of institutionalized religion, the great need is for boldness in loving, forgiving, speaking the truth in love, and obedience to the strategy of God revealed to us in prayer."

(Ogilvie, *Acts*, p. 90)

IV. Courage to Tell the Truth About Jesus

Acts 4:8-12

[8]... Rulers of the people and elders, [9] if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, [10] let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead by him this man is standing before you well.

(Acts 4:8b-12 ESV)

[11] This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

(Acts 4:8b-12 ESV)

- 1. His <u>life</u> ~ "Jesus of Nazareth..."
- 2. His death ~ "Crucified by men..."
- 3. His resurrection ~ "God raised him..."

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- 2. Jesus enables true worship of God ~ "has become the cornerstone..."
- 3. Jesus is the only means of salvation ~ "No other name..."

[16] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

(John 3:16–18 ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

(John 14:6 ESV)















