"A Place of Wind & Warfare"

Acts 4:23-31



1. What Spiritual Warfare Sometimes Looks Like (4:1-23)

"When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them." - Acts 4:23

- A. Unjustly incarcerated (4:1-3) "And as they were speaking to the people, <u>the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them</u>, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 <u>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day</u>, for it was already evening."
- B. Aggressively interrogated (4:7) And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"
- C. Spiritually invigorated (4:8-12) Then Peter, <u>filled with the Holy Spirit</u>, said to them, "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 <u>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. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And <u>there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.</u>"</u>
- D. Persistently intimidated (17-18) "But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
- E. Powerfully insulated (19-20) "But Peter and John answered them, "<u>Whether</u> <u>it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must</u> <u>judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard</u>."

- 2. What Spiritual Wind Sometimes Sounds Like (24-31)
 - A. It sounds like unity (24a) "And when <u>they heard</u> it, <u>they lifted their voices</u> <u>together to God</u>..."
 - B. It sounds like Scripture (24b-26) "...Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 <u>who through the mouth</u> <u>of our father David, Your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the</u> <u>Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set</u> <u>themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and</u> <u>against His Anointed</u>."
 - C. It sounds like reverence (27-28) "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place."
 - D. It sounds like courage (29) "And now, Lord, <u>look upon their threats and</u> <u>grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness</u>..."
 - E. It sounds like power (30) "...while <u>You stretch out your hand to heal</u>, and <u>signs and wonders are performed</u> through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."
 - F. It sounds like an explosion (31) "And <u>when they had prayed</u>, the place in which they were gathered together was <u>shaken</u>, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with <u>boldness</u>."