

MOSAIC
“Boldness”
March 8, 2015

“You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

“We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:20 (NIV)

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
Acts 4:12 (NIV)

“On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.”
Acts 4:23–24 (NIV)

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.
Acts 4:24 (NIV)

“You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David...”
Acts 4:25 (NIV)

“‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.’ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.”
Acts 4:25-28 (NIV)

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”
Acts 4:29 (NIV)

Application:

What is boldness? Speaking up when God makes the opportunity available.

Why should we be bold?

- God is still sovereign
- God is as active today as he was 2,000 years ago
- God is inviting us to join His unfolding plan for this generation

What happens when you pray: “Enable me to speak your word with great boldness?”

1. You’ll become more aware of opportunities
2. You’ll be forced to face a fear: letting it be known that you stand with God.

85% of all Christ-followers come to faith
through a family member or a friend who is a Christian.

Study Guide

Mosaic - Boldness

March 8th, 2015

Main Idea:

In this week's message we turn the page and begin to look at Acts 4 as the early church grows. One key ingredient that was needed in order for the early church to succeed and spread - boldness. But history tells us that this wasn't always so easy for some of the key players in the early church.

Peter was known for many things throughout the Gospels. He regularly would stick his foot in his mouth when talking with Jesus and his fellow disciples. Speaking his mind wasn't a weakness at all. He even tried to tell Jesus how He was wrong and Jesus said, "Get behind me Satan..." However, despite all of this, Peter remained in the inner circle with Jesus. He was one of the closest disciples to the Messiah and even though he got it wrong a lot, he was also told that the "church would be built on this rock", referring to Peter himself.

One of the most famous times Peter got it wrong was after Jesus was arrested. Jesus was taken away and Peter felt scared and went to hide in the crowd. When some people recognized him, he denied he knew Jesus not once, but three times. This man who had seen Jesus do some amazing and miraculous things now was abandoning his leader and acting like a coward.

As you think about Peter's transformation from coward at the end of the Gospels to Acts 2 (preaching to three thousand or more) as we have discussed in recent weeks, what comes to mind?

Now as we take a look at Acts, we see Peter doing some incredibly bold things. He is standing in front of thousands and preaching and we see in Acts 3 and 4 that he is arrested and brought before the courts before being released. Upon being released, what does he do? He goes out and preaches again and this is what Peter says in Acts 4:20 (NIV), "***We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.***"

He has now been exposed to and lived through the most incredible story this world has ever told. How can he hold his tongue and not say anything? What a remarkable change from the Peter who denied Christ three times. This man was forever changed through the resurrection of his Savior. He could not be kept quiet.

When you think about what Peter said in Acts 4:20 what does this mean for us today?

Too often our beliefs are thought of as inappropriate conversations with people who don't have the same beliefs. The world has definitely become more "spiritually aware" the last few years, but Jesus and Christianity at large seem to still be an off topic. It is our job as Christ followers to do everything we can (within our beliefs) to make it easy for others to be ready to hear the gospel. Whether this takes place over dinner, at a bar or a coffee shop, or at a Sunday morning service, we need to be ready to answer their questions and do our part to be kind, compassionate, and inviting. This attitude

and stance is vital because once we actually get to talking about the actual gospel or Good News the discussion will take a turn.

When was the last time you talked with someone who was interested in spiritual things or even aspects of Christianity?

Why is our attitude and approach so important?

Once the gospel is actually presented, it is quite offensive on its own. We don't need to do anything to make the barriers any higher because the truth of the gospel overtakes everyone when they hear it. Peter says it well when he was preaching in Acts 4:12 (NIV), "***Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.***" The truth presented here by Peter is that you cannot save yourself and nothing you look for here on this Earth will save you either. There is only one person who can save you and His name is Jesus Christ. Too often we confuse sugar-coating the gospel with the packaging of the gospel.

Meaning, it absolutely matters **how we share** the gospel because **what we say** is going to be offensive all by itself.

If we get too caught up in the truth (Good News) that it causes people to walk away, then what was the point? Peter knew what he was doing. He had just spent years watching Jesus balance the truth with grace. Jesus never backed away from speaking the truth to each person he came in contact with, but he never did it without making sure they saw how much He loved them as well.

What prevents you from being bold enough to share with someone the truth of the gospel?

When you share your beliefs with others, do you struggle with doing it with grace and love?

There will be times when people don't like what the gospel has to say. This conversation can even lead to threats about not bringing it up again, or even threatening your standing with the person. Thankfully in this country we do not have to worry about the threat to our lives or the lives of our families like many Christians in other countries. As Pastor Hank shared on Sunday, it is important to remember that these conversations should never be based on our safety. We don't make decisions out of fear because we know that God is our ultimate provider and protector. This is where the boldness comes back in to play as it did with the early church.

Acts 4:29 (NIV)

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness."

Boldness can look like a lot of different things in our world today. Taking a simple step to be open and available requires boldness. God wants to use His people to change this world but we have to remember that He is a Sovereign King and a Loving Father. **This week isn't about our safety, but the reality is many of us worship our comfort and safety before we worship a Holy King.**

Next Steps:

- 1) **Pray.** Ask God for boldness to speak and live out the Good News in your life. Ask Him to open doors and show you people to whom you need to share the gospel. Ask God for His help to overcome fear and worry about what people think, and your comfort and security.
- 2) **Share.** As God begins to open your eyes to see opportunities all around, you have a choice to share the gospel with them or not. This is why praying for boldness is the first step. Take the next step to boldly share the Good News with the people God has placed along your path.
- 3) **Go.** If we only stay in our Christian bubble, we will not only miss out on this opportunities but we will be failing to obey one of Jesus's greatest commands to **Go Everywhere** and share the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20). This doesn't mean that we have to surround ourselves entirely with non-believers, but we must have a presence in this world. This can start in our neighborhoods, our schools, our places of work, or even a short term trip to another country. We follow Jesus when we decide to start realizing He has sent us and placed us right where we are.

What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?

Family Focus

Supplies Needed: A simple box of dominoes, masking tape and a marker to make a face on one of the dominoes.

This concept is to show how one person can touch another they don't know by boldly talking about the Word of Jesus. To see the concept, go to the following link for a visual:

<http://ministry-to-children.com/object-lesson-kids-sharing-gospel/>

Scripture Connection: With this object lesson you could read any of the key passages about Evangelism. Here are a few of my favorites:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 ESV)

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8 ESV)

But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 1:7-8 ESV)