



### GOING DEEPER- ACTS 4 (Part 1)

#### Read Acts 4:1-22

Peter and John were arrested because they were boldly teaching about Jesus and the resurrection to the crowds at the temple.

By this stage because of this message and the growing movement of the church, there were now about 5000 men who had come to faith in Jesus (Estimated 10,000 when including women and children).

They were released because the religious leaders did not want a riot on their hands and there was nothing to charge them with. All could see that the people were praising God for the miracle!

Peters boldly testified of Jesus before the religious leaders and his defence was that they wanted to obey God and witness about what they had seen and heard in Jesus. The physical evidence of the man healed man was also difficult to refute!

Sometimes fear of men holds us back from speaking out what we ought in the name of Jesus; but when we are “filled with the Spirit” (v8) we can experience a supernatural courage.

#### Questions:

1. Does fear sometimes hold you back from speaking about Jesus to others? How does this passage encourage and inspire you?
2. What is one simple way you might share with someone this week about what you've seen Jesus do and how might you do this in the Spirit's power?



### GOING DEEPER- ACTS 4 (Part 2)

#### Read Acts 4:23-31

As the disciples gathered together in prayer after Peter and John were released, these three things shaped their prayers:

**Reason-** The prayer was in response to the persecution which had been prophesied in the Psalms, that the Lord's anointed Messiah would be opposed. The disciples prayed to the sovereign Lord believing that he was completely in control. They knew that regardless of the religious leaders, the people of Israel, and the Gentiles, that they were: “28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.” So they were confident that even as this was prophesied, it was part of the Lord's plan.

**Request-** The request was that God would look upon the threats from the religious leaders and at the same time grant the disciples boldness to speak out His word coupled with God's outstretched hand to heal and bring about signs and wonders. All in the name of Jesus!

**Result-** When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness!

**Question:** How might these bold prayers shape your prayers for yourself and for the church?

**Prayer:** Jesus, take our fears away, fill us with boldness and fill us with Your Spirit, fill us with Your power. Thank you for Your indwelling presence for your mission. Amen.