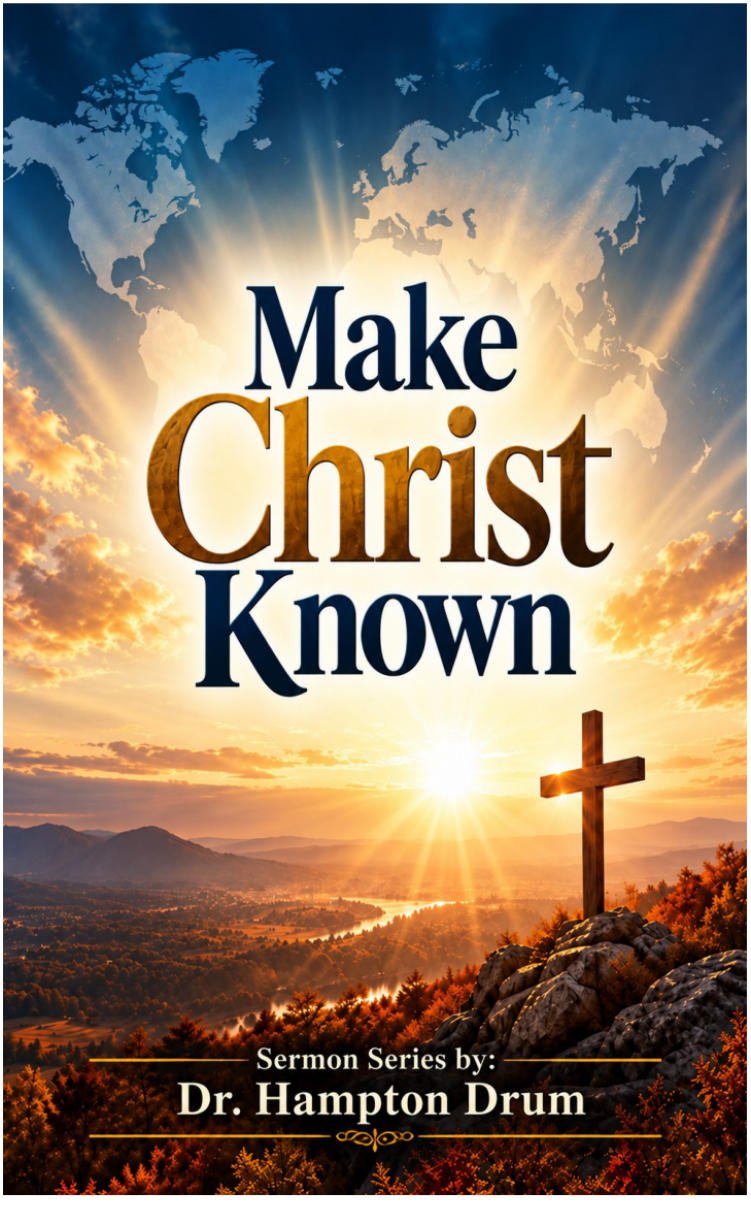


Sermon 3

Make Christ Known with Boldness

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Acts 4:1-13

Introduction:

“What we need is an epidemic of holy boldness.”

“You cannot be convinced that Jesus Christ came out of that grave,

and that He’s the only hope of a sin-cursed world and be silent. You cannot! You might as well tell the sun to cease to shine than tell a Christian, who has had an encounter with the living Christ

and has that Christ alive in him, to shut up and be still.”

- Adrian Rogers

I. The persecution that you can expect in Christ’s boldness. (V. 1-3)

A. Persecution is often used to silence the witness.

And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, (V. 2) Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. Acts 4:1-2

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; (V. 9) Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; (V. 10) Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. II Corinthians 4:8-10

"His message produced two opposite results: 1. Some 2,000 Jews believed the Word and were converted, and 2. the religious leaders of the nation rejected the message and tried to silence the Apostle."

- Warren Wiersbe

B. Persecution is often used to slander the witness.

And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Acts 4:3

II. The persuasion that you can express in ` Christ’s boldness. (V. 4)

A. Christ’s boldness will persuade men to be convinced of Christ.

Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; Acts 4:4

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

B. Christ’s boldness will persuade men to be converted to Christ.

. . . and the number of the men was about five thousand. Acts 4:4

III. The presence that we shall experience in Christ’s boldness. (V. 10-13)

“God is working, but you cannot see God working. Just because your situation doesn’t make sense doesn’t mean that it doesn’t make sense.”

- Adrian Rogers

A. The presence of Jesus was revealed in their attitude.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, (V. 9) If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; (V. 10) Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. Acts 4:8-10

B. The presence of Jesus was revealed in their actions.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (V. 12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (V. 13) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:11-13

And when they had prayed, . . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

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