Pastor Jim Jackson, 11/1/26
THE CHURCH, Pt. 4—God's Brave Family
Acts 4:1-22

Peter and John <u>STAND UP</u>

On their way to the Temple, Peter and John see a man over 40 who'd been unable to walk since birth, begging at the entrance. Passing by, Peter heals him, and he shocks everyone by running into the Temple praising God. When people inquire how it happened, Peter testifies to the power of Jesus and gives them the Gospel, by which 5000 men get saved (Acts 3:6-10). *Though you might get the credit, always give God the glory!* Hearing Peter talk about Jesus as crucified and resurrected, the Sadducees—who don't believe in a resurrection—send guards to arrest them. Ironically, while doing God's work, they were persecuted by those who claimed to represent God. *Relational difficulty is often the pathway to spiritual maturity!*

Peter speaks <u>OUT</u>

Though Peter stood before many of the same men that were at Jesus' trial over a month ago when he denied Jesus in fear, he wouldn't make the same mistake twice. God allows U-turns and restarts. *Failure is only final if you stop; learn your lesson and always 'fail forward!'* Peter could have avoided the situation by not healing the man and going back home to Galilee and settling down. Instead, he tries to maximize his life knowing opportunities don't come around often. *Stay hungry and God-dependent; your comfort zone is where the blessing of God goes to die!* Peter was a fisherman that didn't get formal religious education like the Pharisees and Sadducees. So, when he spoke fearlessly with conviction and theological accuracy, they realized he'd been trained by Jesus. *By the way you live, people should recognize that you've been with Jesus!*

The Gospel shines <u>THROUGH</u>

Needing to stop Peter's popularity and growth of the church, the leaders threaten them. *Places that God has left are threatened by where God is present!* Hearing their threats, Peter promises that when the commands of men and God conflict, he will always obey God. While Christians are to obey the human authority God placed over them and be people of peace to not bring shame to their testimony, the command to share the Gospel supersedes all authority (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:12-17). *Believers give their ultimate devotion to the ultimate Authority!*