Sermon Highlights

Bold Witness in the Name of Jesus: Standing Firm Against Opposition

Sermon Summary:

This sermon examines Acts 4:1-22, focusing on Peter and John's bold testimony before the religious authorities after healing the lame man at the temple gate. The message emphasizes that true Christianity requires boldness born from genuine encounter with Jesus Christ. The preacher challenges the congregation to understand that salvation comes solely through Jesus Christ, not through human merit or works. He stresses that people go to hell because they are sinners, not merely because they rejected Jesus, while heaven is granted only through accepting Christ's finished work on the cross. The sermon calls believers to stop compromising with worldly values and to demonstrate the same courage Peter and John showed when commanded to stop preaching. True disciples cannot help but speak what they have seen and heard about Jesus, regardless of opposition or threats.

Key Points:

- The Sadducees opposed the apostles because they feared losing their political power and position with Rome, not because of genuine religious concern

- Peter and John were filled with the Holy Spirit for the specific work God called them to do, demonstrating that God empowers His people for His purposes

- Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone - there is no other name under heaven by which people must be saved

- People go to hell because they are sinners who deserve judgment, not simply because they haven't heard the gospel

- Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone, plus nothing, minus nothing

- Boldness in witnessing comes from truly being with Jesus, not from formal education or training

- The religious leaders could not deny the miracle but refused to believe because of hard hearts

- True believers cannot help but speak about what they have seen and heard regarding Jesus

- The modern church has become too timid and compromising with worldly values like gambling and other vices

- Church attendance and commitment reflect the seriousness of one's faith and serve as a witness to the watching world

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 4:1-22 (primary passage)

- Psalm 118 (referenced regarding the stone the builders rejected)

- Romans 3 (referenced regarding universal sinfulness)

- Genesis (referenced regarding Jacob and the stone)

- Revelation (referenced regarding the great white throne judgment)

Stories:

- The healing of the lame man at the Gate Beautiful (Acts 3, continuing into Acts 4)

- The arrest and trial of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin

- Historical context of the high priesthood under Roman rule, including Annas and Caiaphas

- The illustration of the monkey with its hand stuck in a jar grasping a banana, representing greed and inability to let go

- Reference to Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead as an example of how even miracles don't convince hardened hearts

- The Garden of Gethsemane arrest led by the captain of the temple guard