



Life Group Study Questions*

Sent - Part 5 (Acts 4) “Bold Courageous Vision”

**What is your biggest fear in life? Do you plan on ever conquering that fear?
What’s the most courageous act you’ve ever seen?**

Have a volunteer read acts 4:1-3.

How do you think Peter felt when the very people who had witnessed his denial of Jesus faced him again as he preached of the resurrection?

Jesus had said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Peter now stood in that power and declared the gospel message without apology.

What are the risks we face when we proclaim the gospel? Why can we expect confrontation—whether big or small—when we speak about Jesus?

The opposition Peter and John faced only showcased their courage. Courage is like a diamond on black velvet: it shines brightest against the darkest of circumstances. Courage always involves confrontation and the strong possibility of suffering. Courage is standing for Christ when you know you’ll pay a price for doing so.

Have a volunteer read acts 4:8-12.

How did the Holy Spirit give Peter courage in this passage?

The Jewish religious leaders asked a single question of Peter and John: “By what power or in what name have you done this?” (v. 7) They wanted to know how the lame man had been healed. Peter had only one answer: Jesus. Peter then quoted Psalm 118:22, about the stone rejected by the builders becoming the cornerstone—but he referred to “the stone rejected by you builders.” They had executed their own Messiah. In verse 12, Peter further proves scandalous when he explained that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

* For quality discussion take time to answer all questions as thoroughly as possible

When have you needed courage in order to speak boldly for Christ? Respond to this statement by Dorothy Sayers: “I believe it is a grave mistake to present Christianity as something charming and popular with no offense to it.” Do you think Peter’s statements in verses 11-12 might have been offensive to his listeners? Why? Have you ever been in Peter’s situation before?

To claim as Peter did that “there is salvation in no one else” is a slap in the face of all those sincere people doing good and seeking God in other ways. That’s intolerant! Or is it? “Tolerance” should mean treating all people with respect, regardless of their beliefs. This definition has been altered, though, to mean accepting as equally valid all opinions and beliefs. It’s been twisted into a relativistic moral code that says: “Neither of our beliefs is better or worse, right or wrong. Just different.” Biblical truth renounces this idea. Jesus Himself said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). Peter laid the truth on the line about Jesus. Far from being intolerant, he spoke the truth in love.

In a culture that values tolerance above all, how do we boldly and lovingly communicate the message of verse 12? How would you describe the role of the Holy Spirit in sharing the gospel?

Have a volunteer read acts 4:19-31.

How did the Holy Spirit further give courage to Peter and John in verses 19-31? Christians today have an unhealthy need to be liked and approved by others. How did Peter and John not adopt this attitude when faced with opposition? How did they demonstrate that God’s approval was all that mattered to them?

APPLICATION

Where is God directing you and your group to demonstrate a greater level of courage and boldness this week? What bold courageous vision do you see for your life, for this Church? Do you find yourself living to please a particular person? Who is it? What truths from Scripture will you meditate on this week in order to combat the lie of the enemy that you need man’s approval in order to succeed?

PRAYER

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