**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Holy Boldness |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 4:9-33 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2273 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Are you a bold believer or a cowardly Christian?
      1. There is in our world today the curse of cowardly Christians.
         1. Some do not want to be seen in the office with a Bible on their desks.
         2. Others do not want to be seen in a restaurant bowing their heads before their meal.
         3. They are afraid of being criticized or disliked.
   2. Acts 4:13
      1. The word “boldness” in this passage is associated with God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. Acts 4:29
      1. “Boldness” in this Scripture is associated with God the Father.
   4. Acts 4:31
      1. “Boldness” here is associated with God the Holy Spirit.
   5. What is boldness?
      1. Boldness is not arrogance.
         1. It is not being rude, crude, or being brazen.
         2. It is not getting in someone’s face and telling them off.
         3. It is not presumption.
      2. We are to be gentle, apt to teach, and in nothing give offense.
      3. Boldness is having the courage to stand for the Lord Jesus Christ in the face of opposition.
   6. The context for Acts 4 is the healing of the lame man at the gate called Beautiful.
      1. Acts 3:6
      2. The Pharisees and Sadducees who hated Jesus could not deny the miracle but hoped to contain it by commanding the apostles not to preach anymore in Jesus’ name.
         1. The apostles refused to stop preaching Jesus Christ.
            1. Acts 4:9-13
            2. Simon Peter, who cowardly denied knowing Jesus at His trial, is now boldly proclaiming Jesus Christ.

In today’s world, we are called arrogant, bigoted and narrow when we proclaim that salvation is found only through Jesus Christ.

But whatever they may call us, they ought also to call us Bible-believing Christians.

Acts 4:12

* 1. The basis of our boldness is linked to the Holy Trinity.
     1. The message today will show you three ways to be a bold believer rather than a cowardly Christian intimidated by Satan.
        1. Philippians 1:28

1. KEEP COMPANY WITH GOD THE SON (Acts 4:13)
   1. It is impossible to walk in the presence of Jesus Christ and be a coward.
   2. It was by Jesus’ name and His presence that the lame man was healed.
      1. Acts 4:10
   3. Make certain that Jesus Christ is real to you.
      1. Jesus Christ is here.
         1. Matthew 18:20
            1. This is the reason we should rejoice, sing and worship.
            2. He has not left us alone; He is here with us always.

Matthew 28:20

* + 1. Boldness comes from knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.
  1. The apostles were uneducated and unlearned, but they had been with Jesus.

1. HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD THE FATHER (Acts 4:24-29)
   1. The apostles were commanded not to preach anymore in the name of Jesus; yet, they asked God the Father for more boldness to do just that.
   2. When we have a proper perspective and see God for who He really is, then we will have boldness.
      1. The person who can kneel before God can stand before anyone else.
      2. One fear - a holy fear of God - removes all other fears.
   3. The apostles had confidence in God as the Creator of all things.
      1. Acts 4:24
   4. The apostles had confidence in God as the Controller of all things.
      1. Acts 4:25-28
      2. God has never lost control; God never says, “Oops.”
   5. The apostles had confidence in God as the Conqueror of all things.
      1. Psalm 2:2, 6
         1. Sin cannot win, and faith cannot fail.
         2. Things are out of place in the world right now.
            1. The church is the bride, and the bride belongs with the Groom; and we will be at the rapture.
            2. The King belongs on the throne, and He will be when He comes again.
            3. Satan is the criminal, and he belongs in the dungeon; and he will be when Jesus comes again.
         3. Our problems are not too big for God.
      2. When the apostles were afraid, they took their eyes off of man and put their eyes on God.
         1. Proverbs 29:25
         2. We need to take our eyes off of our problems and place them upon God.
2. RECEIVE COURAGE FROM GOD THE SPIRIT (Acts 4:29-31)
   1. God the Holy Spirit will give us the courage we need to live for Him.
   2. Acts 4:29
      1. The Greek word for “servant” in this passage means “bond slave.”
      2. Boldness is not for rebels.
         1. We will never have true boldness until we surrender to the Lord Jesus.
         2. We will not have boldness if there is any unconfessed sin, any un-surrendered area in our lives.
            1. Proverbs 28:1
   3. The apostles wanted courage (and we need courage) to:
      1. Express God’s Word.
         1. Acts 4:29
         2. The apostles did not ask for safety, but for courage.
            1. They asked for the ability to do more of what got them into trouble in the first place.
            2. Perhaps the curse of the 21st Century is cowardly Christians who are not expressing God’s Word.
      2. Extend God’s hand.
         1. Acts 4:30
         2. Acts 5:12
            1. The word “by” in this passage actually means “through.”
            2. Jesus Christ is doing the work through us.
            3. Anything we do that can be explained apart from Jesus Christ has no eternal value.
      3. Exalt God’s Son.
         1. Acts 4:30
            1. “Name” in this Scripture refers to the authority of Jesus Christ.
         2. We should never be afraid to lift the name of Jesus.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. Acts 4:31, 33
      1. When the apostles were filled with boldness, multitudes were swept into the Kingdom of Heaven.
   2. Many will come to Jesus today if we will stop being cowardly Christians.
   3. In order to have boldness, we must first know the Lord Jesus Christ personally.
   4. Are you saved?
      1. Acts 4:12
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16