**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Secret of Holy Boldness |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 4:1-20 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1236 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. We need an epidemic of holy boldness.
   2. Acts 4:13
   3. Many of us want to share our faith and tell others about our Savior, but we have been intimidated.
      1. We are cowardly Christians.
   4. When some go out to testify for Jesus, their loyalty makes them go, but their fear makes them slow.
      1. They are not the vibrant testimony for Jesus that they should be.
   5. The Apostles Peter and John were bold.
   6. Acts 4:1-3
      1. “Put them in hold” means that they were in jail.
   7. Today’s message will help us learn how to be a bold witness for the Lord Jesus Christ as we look at the secret of holy boldness.
2. the persecution that we may expect (acts 3:1-12)
   1. Peter and John were persecuted, and so will we be if we get bold for Jesus.
      1. The servant is not greater than his master.
         1. John 15:20
   2. It is very obvious to see why they were persecuted.
      1. The persecution was really not against them.
      2. The persecution was against Jesus.
         1. The book of Acts is not what the apostles were doing.
         2. The book of Acts is what Jesus Christ was doing in the apostles.
   3. People wanted to know how a lame man who sat at the gate of the temple was miraculously, supernaturally, and instantaneously healed and changed.
      1. Acts 3:1-10
      2. Acts 3:12
         1. Peter said not to give him or John the credit for the miracle.
      3. Acts 4:10
         1. It was Jesus Christ who had healed this man.
   4. The Sadducees didn’t believe in the resurrection.
      1. Rather than examine their doctrine, they opposed the truth.
   5. The chief priests held sway in the temple, but the people were leaving them and going after the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. When they persecuted Peter and John, they were really persecuting Jesus.
   6. If we are in Christ and Christ is in us, then the same world that hated Jesus will hate us.
      1. The devil will aim all the artillery of Hell at us.
      2. This is evidence that we love the Lord Jesus.
   7. We can expect persecution.
      1. Matthew 5:12
   8. Acts 9:4
      1. This was after the Lord Jesus had been crucified.
         1. We cannot persecute a dead man, only a living man.
   9. When we know the Lord Jesus and stand for the Lord Jesus, we will find ourselves going against the tide.
      1. We will be persecuted.
3. the persuasion that we may express (acts 4:4-12)
   1. They were persecuted, but they were powerful.
      1. The church persecuted is always the church powerful.
      2. They put Peter and John in jail, intimidated them, and spoke against them.
         1. Acts 4:4
            1. 5,000 men were saved in one service.
            2. Along with the women and children, there could have been as many as 20,000 saved in that one service.
   2. What convicted and convinced all of these people to be saved was not that Peter preached a good sermon.
      1. No one has that power of persuasion.
      2. What convinced them was not facts about a dead Christ but an encounter with a living Christ.
         1. They had seen Jesus.
   3. Arguments did not convince them.
      1. We will never argue someone into the kingdom of Heaven.
         1. When we witness and it turns into an argument, then we need to stop.
         2. We can be witnesses, but we are not called to be lawyers.
         3. We can defend the faith and give a rationale, but stop if it becomes an argument.
            1. If we lose the argument, then we will win the point.
            2. If we win the argument, then we lose the person.
      2. No one is ever argued into the kingdom of Heaven.
         1. These people were not argued into the kingdom of Heaven.
            1. They had met Jesus in the person of the apostles.
            2. They had seen Jesus and had seen Him work.
      3. After the resurrection, Thomas was a doubter.
         1. The other ten disciples tried to convince him that Jesus was alive.
            1. They had seen Jesus.
         2. When Thomas saw Jesus, he did not need an argument.
            1. He had had an encounter with Jesus himself.

John 20:28

* + - 1. If ten of Thomas’ friends could not convince him that Jesus was alive, then we will never convince others that Jesus is alive by an argument.
  1. When the Holy Spirit of God filled the apostles and Jesus Christ was living in them, they were not simply arguing that a dead Christ existed some time ago or even that a living Christ had risen from the dead.
     1. They were demonstrating, with Christ in their hearts, that He was alive.
  2. There is power when Christ in us convinces the people.
     1. We can preach truth, but only He can impart truth.
  3. Acts 4:11
     1. All the religious and governmental leaders in high positions were there.
        1. Peter, who had been a coward in front of a teenage girl and denied Christ, was now surrounded by all of them.
     2. Rather than being intimidated, Peter became the prosecuting attorney.
     3. When Solomon’s temple was built, all of the stones were precut to be assembled on the temple site.
        1. The stones were stacked and numbered so that they could send for each particular stone when needed.
        2. There was one stone that was quite unusual and large.
           1. No one seemed to know what it was for.
           2. The workmen kept walking around it, and some of them would stumble over it.
           3. Finally, someone said that the stone was worthless and useless and to get rid of it.
           4. The stone was rolled off the Temple Mount and into the Kidron Valley.
        3. When it was time to put the cornerstone in, the stone that would unite the whole building and give it strength and beauty, they sent for it at the quarry.
           1. But the cornerstone had already been sent.

It was the stone that they had rejected.

* + 1. Peter used this illustration to tell us that Jesus is the chief cornerstone, and they had rejected Jesus.
       1. Acts 4:11-12
  1. One message that the church needs to preach today is that Jesus is the only way of salvation.
     1. If Jesus Christ is not the only way to Heaven, then He is none of the ways to Heaven.
     2. John 14:6
     3. Acts 4:12
  2. We don’t have to depend upon our powers of persuasion.
     1. Anything we can talk someone into, someone else can talk them out of.
     2. Jesus Christ is the only one who builds the church.
  3. We need to recognize the power of the living Christ.

1. the presence that we shall experience (acts 4:13-14)
   1. Peter and John were bold because they had been with Jesus.
      1. They had seen Christ alive, resurrected, and now Christ lived in them.
      2. They could not be intimated, quieted, or held back.
      3. They refused to let up, shut up, or back up because they were filled with the Spirit of God and the presence of Jesus.
   2. One of the curses of twentieth century Christianity is the cowardice and the silence of good people.
      1. It is the strategy of the devil to keep good people silent in an evil time.
      2. We need a contagious epidemic of holy boldness.
   3. Holy boldness is not the following:
      1. It is not human courage.
         1. Some people have an extraordinary amount of courage, but that is not holy boldness.
            1. It may be self-confidence.
            2. Maybe they don’t know enough to be afraid.
         2. Simon Peter was afraid.
            1. He trembled in front of a little girl before he had this boldness.
         3. Holy boldness is not innate courage.
      2. It is not arrogance.
         1. What some people call boldness is actually brashness.
         2. They say that they are just speaking their mind, that they are bold for Jesus.
            1. But they are just being arrogant.
            2. They witness in such a way as to embarrass people.

Jesus never did that.

* + - 1. Jesus was winsome; He wasn’t arrogant or brassy.
    1. It is not presumption.
       1. Some people call themselves bold in order to show how much faith they have.
          1. That is presumption.
          2. That is tempting God.

Matthew 4:7

* 1. Boldness is saying the following:
     1. Lord Jesus, if You are for me, then who can be against me?
        1. Romans 8:31
     2. If You want to use me, then use me.
        1. I trust You to take care of me.
     3. If You choose to let me be put in jail, then I will rejoice that I am counted worthy to suffer shame for Your name.
        1. Acts 5:41
     4. If You choose that I suffer bodily harm, then nothing will come to me but what it comes through You first.
     5. I submit myself to You, and I will speak at Your command.
  2. John 4:13

1. the person whom we must exalt (Acts 4:15-20)
   1. We cannot be convinced that Jesus Christ came out of that grave and that He is the only hope for a sin-cursed world and be silent.
      1. We might as well tell the sun to cease to shine as to tell a Christian who has had an encounter with the living Christ and has Christ alive in him to be quiet and be still.
      2. Acts 4:20
   2. Jesus said that we shall be witnesses unto Him.
      1. Acts 1:8
      2. A witness is someone who tells what he has seen and heard.
         1. The reason why some people do not witness is that they have not seen or heard anything.
      3. Evangelism was the daily business of these early Christians.
         1. They had no radio, television, buses, literature, or church buildings.
            1. Yet, they turned the world inside out and upside down for the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. New Testament Christianity cannot be explained, rationally denied, or intimidated.
      1. Acts 4:20
      2. Sometimes people think Christianity is a bunch of rules telling them what to do and how to live.
         1. But Christianity is about someone who is alive, and His name is Jesus.
   4. Jesus is the one who not only shows you what to do, but He makes you want to do it.
      1. And He gives you the power to do it.
   5. Have you ever really bowed before Jesus and made Him Lord?
      1. A story has been told about a young man who had difficulty living the Christian life.
         1. He told his pastor that it seemed like he had never really committed himself to the Lord Jesus.
         2. The pastor told the young man about a painting of Jesus.
            1. The painting was of Christ on the cross, and He was dying in agony and blood.
         3. When the young man saw the painting, he was repelled and repulsed by it.
            1. The painting seemed to be out of proportion and almost grotesque.
         4. The young man was told to get closer and lower to the painting until he found himself on his knees right at the foot of the cross.
            1. When he looked up, the painting was in perfect proportion.

That was the only position from which it made sense; right on his knees at the foot of the cross.

* + - * 1. It had been painted from that perspective.
    1. This may be exactly where the Lord wants to bring you:
       1. On your knees at the foot of the cross, where you bow your head and say it and mean it that Jesus is Lord.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. May the Lord Jesus give you a holy boldness.
      1. A boldness that is not arrogant, brassy, or argumentative.
      2. Proverbs 28:1
      3. May you be bold for the Lord.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. 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