

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Secret of Holy Boldness

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 4:1-20

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1236

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We need an epidemic of holy boldness.
- b) Acts 4:13
- c) Many of us want to share our faith and tell others about our Savior, but we have been intimidated.
 - i) We are cowardly Christians.
- d) When some go out to testify for Jesus, their loyalty makes them go, but their fear makes them slow.
 - i) They are not the vibrant testimony for Jesus that they should be.
- e) The Apostles Peter and John were bold.
- f) Acts 4:1-3
 - i) “Put them in hold” means that they were in jail.
- g) 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)

- a) Peter and John were persecuted, and so will we be if we get bold for Jesus.
 - i) The servant is not greater than his master.
 - (1) John 15:20
- b) It is very obvious to see why they were persecuted.
 - i) The persecution was really not against them.
 - ii) 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.
- c) People wanted to know how a lame man who sat at the gate of the temple was miraculously, supernaturally, and instantaneously healed and changed.
 - i) Acts 3:1-10
 - ii) Acts 3:12
 - (1) Peter said not to give him or John the credit for the miracle.
 - iii) Acts 4:10
 - (1) It was Jesus Christ who had healed this man.
- d) The Sadducees didn’t believe in the resurrection.
 - i) Rather than examine their doctrine, they opposed the truth.
- e) The chief priests held sway in the temple, but the people were leaving them and going after the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) When they persecuted Peter and John, they were really persecuting Jesus.
- f) If we are in Christ and Christ is in us, then the same world that hated Jesus will hate us.
 - i) The devil will aim all the artillery of Hell at us.
 - ii) This is evidence that we love the Lord Jesus.
- g) We can expect persecution.
 - i) Matthew 5:12
- h) Acts 9:4
 - i) This was after the Lord Jesus had been crucified.

- (1) We cannot persecute a dead man, only a living man.
 - i) When we know the Lord Jesus and stand for the Lord Jesus, we will find ourselves going against the tide.
 - i) We will be persecuted.
- 3) THE PERSUASION THAT WE MAY EXPRESS (ACTS 4:4-12)
- a) They were persecuted, but they were powerful.
 - i) The church persecuted is always the church powerful.
 - ii) They put Peter and John in jail, intimidated them, and spoke against them.
 - (1) Acts 4:4
 - (a) 5,000 men were saved in one service.
 - (b) Along with the women and children, there could have been as many as 20,000 saved in that one service.
 - b) What convicted and convinced all of these people to be saved was not that Peter preached a good sermon.
 - i) No one has that power of persuasion.
 - ii) What convinced them was not facts about a dead Christ but an encounter with a living Christ.
 - (1) They had seen Jesus.
 - c) Arguments did not convince them.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) If we lose the argument, then we will win the point.
 - (b) If we win the argument, then we lose the person.
 - ii) No one is ever argued into the kingdom of Heaven.
 - (1) These people were not argued into the kingdom of Heaven.
 - (a) They had met Jesus in the person of the apostles.
 - (b) They had seen Jesus and had seen Him work.
 - iii) After the resurrection, Thomas was a doubter.
 - (1) The other ten disciples tried to convince him that Jesus was alive.
 - (a) They had seen Jesus.
 - (2) When Thomas saw Jesus, he did not need an argument.
 - (a) He had had an encounter with Jesus himself.
 - (i) John 20:28
 - (3) 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.
 - d) 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.
 - i) They were demonstrating, with Christ in their hearts, that He was alive.
 - e) There is power when Christ in us convinces the people.

- i) We can preach truth, but only He can impart truth.
 - f) Acts 4:11
 - i) 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.
 - ii) Rather than being intimidated, Peter became the prosecuting attorney.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) No one seemed to know what it was for.
 - (b) The workmen kept walking around it, and some of them would stumble over it.
 - (c) Finally, someone said that the stone was worthless and useless and to get rid of it.
 - (d) 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.
 - (a) But the cornerstone had already been sent.
 - (i) It was the stone that they had rejected.
 - iv) Peter used this illustration to tell us that Jesus is the chief cornerstone, and they had rejected Jesus.
 - (1) Acts 4:11-12
 - g) One message that the church needs to preach today is that Jesus is the only way of salvation.
 - i) If Jesus Christ is not the only way to Heaven, then He is none of the ways to Heaven.
 - ii) John 14:6
 - iii) Acts 4:12
 - h) We don't have to depend upon our powers of persuasion.
 - i) Anything we can talk someone into, someone else can talk them out of.
 - ii) Jesus Christ is the only one who builds the church.
 - i) We need to recognize the power of the living Christ.
- 4) THE PRESENCE THAT WE SHALL EXPERIENCE (ACTS 4:13-14)
- a) Peter and John were bold because they had been with Jesus.
 - i) They had seen Christ alive, resurrected, and now Christ lived in them.
 - ii) They could not be intimidated, quieted, or held back.
 - iii) They refused to let up, shut up, or back up because they were filled with the Spirit of God and the presence of Jesus.

- b) One of the curses of twentieth century Christianity is the cowardice and the silence of good people.
 - i) It is the strategy of the devil to keep good people silent in an evil time.
 - ii) We need a contagious epidemic of holy boldness.
 - c) Holy boldness is not the following:
 - i) It is not human courage.
 - (1) Some people have an extraordinary amount of courage, but that is not holy boldness.
 - (a) It may be self-confidence.
 - (b) Maybe they don't know enough to be afraid.
 - (2) Simon Peter was afraid.
 - (a) He trembled in front of a little girl before he had this boldness.
 - (3) Holy boldness is not innate courage.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) But they are just being arrogant.
 - (b) They witness in such a way as to embarrass people.
 - (i) Jesus never did that.
 - (3) Jesus was winsome; He wasn't arrogant or brassy.
 - iii) It is not presumption.
 - (1) Some people call themselves bold in order to show how much faith they have.
 - (a) That is presumption.
 - (b) That is tempting God.
 - (i) Matthew 4:7
 - d) Boldness is saying the following:
 - i) Lord Jesus, if You are for me, then who can be against me?
 - (1) Romans 8:31
 - ii) If You want to use me, then use me.
 - (1) I trust You to take care of me.
 - iii) 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
 - iv) If You choose that I suffer bodily harm, then nothing will come to me but what it comes through You first.
 - v) I submit myself to You, and I will speak at Your command.
 - e) John 4:13
- 5) THE PERSON WHOM WE MUST EXALT (ACTS 4:15-20)
- a) 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.

- i) 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.
- ii) Acts 4:20
- b) Jesus said that we shall be witnesses unto Him.
 - i) Acts 1:8
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) Evangelism was the daily business of these early Christians.
 - (1) They had no radio, television, buses, literature, or church buildings.
 - (a) Yet, they turned the world inside out and upside down for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) New Testament Christianity cannot be explained, rationally denied, or intimidated.
 - i) Acts 4:20
 - ii) 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.
- d) Jesus is the one who not only shows you what to do, but He makes you want to do it.
 - i) And He gives you the power to do it.
- e) Have you ever really bowed before Jesus and made Him Lord?
 - i) 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.
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) When he looked up, the painting was in perfect proportion.
 - (i) That was the only position from which it made sense; right on his knees at the foot of the cross.
 - (b) It had been painted from that perspective.
 - ii) 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.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) May the Lord Jesus give you a holy boldness.
 - i) A boldness that is not arrogant, brassy, or argumentative.
 - ii) Proverbs 28:1
 - iii) May you be bold for the Lord.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16