

Acts 4:1-31 Humility, Exclusivity and Boldness

Read and remind yourselves of the story and the context of what has happened just before.

Vs. 1-2 say that the Sadducees were greatly distressed by the preaching of the resurrection of the dead. Ben said that they had much to lose because of this teaching. Look through each of the following and ask, where do I see similar areas in my life that need challenging.

1. Wrong actions. They had done something wrong in killing the Messiah.
2. Wrong theology. They held firmly onto beliefs that had become like idols.
3. Wrong comfort. They wanted to maintain the status quo and things not to change.
Living for this life only means we live safe not radically.
4. Wrong motives. They were jealous of the crowd listening to Peter and John.

What habits, systems, ideas, behaviours, characteristics am I unwilling to let go of and why?
What keeps me from doing so?

Can I change? Read **Acts 6:7**. What do we see here that gives hope for change?

If we have to be open to change and learning does that mean that everything I believe is up for grabs and can be questioned? What things are considered 'closed-handed' matters of faith for you? What in Peter's speech is closed?

Acts 4:12 – no other name. Is the exclusive 'Jesus is the only way' arrogant of Christians? How do we handle the claim that the exclusivity of the Gospel is arrogant?

V.14 The evidence backed up the claim. In the same way our lives should back up what we claim about Jesus. It is hypocrisy more than perceived arrogance that people find more off-putting. What fruit would people point to in your life of a faith in Jesus?

Phil Moore *"It is difficult to underestimate the role which raw courage played in the astonishing growth of the early church."* Peter and John have great courage before the Sanhedrin. Why?

Where did the boldness come **from**? Look at the following and ask, which of these gives me courage and why?

- Time with Jesus vs. 13
- Full of the HS, vs. 8, 31 – fulfilled Luke 12:11-12
- Confidence in their story/testimony vs. 20
- Fellowship with others vs. 23-24
- Confidence in the Scriptures vs. 11, 25-26

Prayer – not to change them but to change us. Not to take them out but to embolden us! Do you pray more that God would change others or change you?

Pray for one another for greater humility and greater boldness; to be full of the Holy Spirit!