

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | No Other Name

March 2, 2025 | “Uncompromising Boldness for Christ” | Acts 4:1–22

EXPOSITION:

- 1) Boldness for Jesus is _____ despite opposition (4:1–4)
- 2) Boldness for Jesus is _____ in times of persecution (4:5–12)
- 3) Boldness for Jesus is _____ by threats and intimidation (4:13–22)

APPLICATION:

- 1) _____ tests the _____ of our faith
- 2) God rewards _____ with more _____
- 3) Times of _____ are opportunities for building _____ and _____

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 4:1–22. How did Peter and John demonstrate boldness before the religious leaders? Were their lives in danger? Why didn’t they just refuse to answer questions (or obfuscate) and live to die another day? How was their boldness empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Is boldness for Christ a matter of our will, or is it a Spirit-empowered thing? Support your conclusion from Acts 1–4. How does boldness relate to other positive out-workings of the Spirit, like holiness or the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23)? Explain the difference between Peter’s being “filled with the Spirit” in Acts 4:8 and a believer’s initial filling with the Spirit at conversion.

Why is Acts 4:12 a key Scripture in this pluralistic age? What are some other passages that communicate the exclusivity of Christ for salvation? Why is it so important that we uphold this truth in our day?

GET PERSONAL

Is boldness for Jesus a strength or a weakness in your life? Do you think you would have been as courageous as Peter and John were in Acts 4? Is there anything that keeps you from displaying a similar boldness in your Christian walk?

Explain how trials, hardships, and persecution shape our boldness for Jesus. How do these experiences shape our character? Reflect on one or two instances in your life where God used hardship to shape your character. What was your attitude during that hardship? Were you bitter? Resentful? Confused? Positive? Faithful?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

According to Scripture, when is civil disobedience warranted? Support your conclusion with specific Scriptures. Balance your conclusions with the following passages: Exodus 1:15–22; Daniel 3:1–30; Acts 5:28–29; Romans 13:1–7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13–17.

ADVANCED QUESTION

Peter quotes Psalm 118 to the religious leaders in Acts 4:11. How does this psalm relate to Jesus? How does Jesus employ it in his ministry (Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10–11; Luke 20:17)?