
Acts 4:1-22 - Fruitfulness

This passage is one great example of Acts 1:8 being fulfilled. In chapter three Peter and John healed a beggar who had been crippled for years. In chapter four we see the Holy Spirit use them in a powerful way to reach out to the entire city of Jerusalem because of this healing. .

The religious leaders of the city were “greatly disturbed” because of this miracle and the preaching that followed it. So they arrested Peter and John hoping to intimidate them into silence and hinder the movement. They failed on both counts. The number of believers increased to more than 5,000, having started just weeks before with the 120 people who had witnessed the ascension of Christ.

Acts 1:8 promises that God will give power to believers (now as well as then) so that they can speak about Christ in a supernatural way. Not only will believers have extraordinary courage but their words will also have great effect. When we yield our lives to Christ and trust his Spirit to fill us, he empowers us to do great things for him.

Think

Is courage a gift from God or a choice we make? Why?

Talk

1. The local leaders instruct Peter and John not to speak to anyone in the name of Jesus (4:18). Why do the leaders tell the disciples to stop talking about Jesus?
2. Peter and John answered the local leaders in verse 19: “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Who helped Peter and John give this bold answer to the religious authorities?
3. The bible teaches us to obey our authorities in Romans 13:1-3. On what basis do you think Peter and John disobeyed these leaders?

Act

Share with each other ideas that help you to be bold in approaching others with the Good News about Jesus.