

8—A Prayer for Boldness

Acts 4:23-37

1. After Peter and John are threatened by the Sanhedrin and released, who do they share their trials with (4:23)? What is the response of these early disciples after this distress (Acts 4:24)?

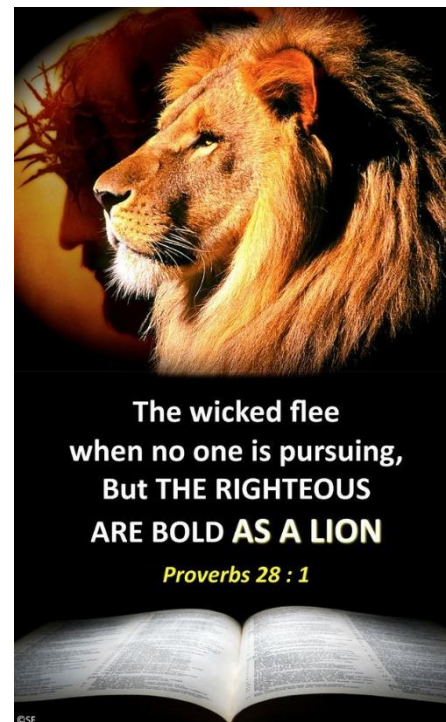
2. The disciples were battling at every turn with people who just wanted to silence them. Describe their response to their persecutors in the following passages. What is the opposite of “boldness” (see Revelation 21:8 for a good word)?

- Acts 4:19-20—
- Acts 4:29—
- Acts 5:20, 29, 42—
- Acts 6:10—

3. The disciples quote an excerpt from Psalm 2:1-2. What did this passage predict and how did the disciples feel it was being fulfilled before their very eyes (Acts 4:25-28)?

4. Because of the persecution and threats of the enemies of Jesus and His disciples, what did the disciples specifically pray for in verses 29 and 30?

5. In what way does God visibly and clearly answer their prayer (Acts 4:31)? How does this encourage us as we offer our own prayers?



6. A beautiful description of the early church is given in Acts 4:32. What are some of the attributes of the church found in this text which made the church a powerful influence for good? What else is noted about them in verses 34-35?

7. What was the centerpiece of the apostles' message as they preached in Jerusalem (Acts 4:33)?

8. What does the phrase "great grace was upon them all" mean (Acts 4:33)?

9. Joses is better known by his nickname given by the apostles. What is it and what exemplary thing did he do in this passage (Acts 4:36-37)? Can you think of any positive nicknames you could give members of the church? On a personal level, based on your church involvement, what kind of nickname would others give you? Note: a contrast to his generosity is exposed in Acts 5's account of Ananias and Sapphira.

10. This passage is often used as a justification for the church to take its money and distribute it to "anyone" in "need" because of the phrase in verse 35. Yet, contextually, who is the "anyone" the apostles were distributing to as we notice the same term "anyone" in verse 32?