



BE BOLD LEADER GUIDE – February 23, 2020

PRIMARY PASSAGE

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” ¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” ²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:12-13, 18-21, 29-31 NIV)

³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” ⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. (Acts 5:38-42 NIV)

ICE BREAKER

- What is the boldest thing you’ve ever done? (Try to keep it PG rated!)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) There was a noticeable difference between the Peter we see in Luke 22:54-62 and the one we see in Acts 3-4. What caused this change in Peter?

- Peter encountered the resurrected Jesus -> He saw His friend/Savior/Lord crucified and then 3 days later had breakfast with Him on the beach of the sea of Galilee.
- Peter knew because of the Resurrection, anything is possible, and it caused him to become a new creation in Christ (see also 2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Once we receive the Holy Spirit we are empowered to live with boldness as a new creation

2) Peter stated in Acts 4:12 that salvation is found in no other name but the name of Jesus. Why is this so foundational to what we believe as Christians? Why do we believe Jesus is the only way to God?

- We truly believe Jesus is God in the flesh who came to be the perfect and only sacrifice for our sin. He and He alone was able to pay the penalty for what we did wrong when He died on the cross, and through His resurrection He has given us the opportunity for new life if we believe.

- For more on this see our sermon -> “I AM: The Way, The Truth, and the Life” at thechapelbr.com/sermons

3) Peter and John stood in front of those that had Jesus arrested/killed and said the words found in Acts 4:19-20. What gave them this boldness? Would you be able to say the same if you were in a similar situation?

- They had been so changed by the resurrection of Jesus and subsequent filling of the Holy Spirit that they were able to stand in front of anyone, specifically those responsible for Jesus’ death, and declare the Gospel with boldness
- Press your group to really dive into this -> are we able to respond the same way? Many of us will never face the threat of death for our beliefs, but we allow much smaller threats to cause us to take a step back in our faith and proclamation of the Gospel

4) After being arrested and threatened for what they said, Peter and John prayed for even more boldness. How does the way we pray today differ from the way these guys prayed? What steps can we take to pray more like them?

- Sometimes it seems that we forget how big our God is -> we pray for things like “hedged of protections” (whatever that is), wisdom, guidance, sickness, etc. and honestly, there’s nothing at all wrong with that. But we serve a God who is so much bigger and wants to use our relationship with Him for so much more than just these simple requests. He is an infinite God with infinite power that tells us to ask whatever we want and it will be given to us.
- Take an inventory of your prayers of the past few months. How much would the world have changed if God had answered all your prayers? How many people outside of your immediate circle of family and friends would’ve been affected if all your prayers were answered?

5) Acts 5:38-39 states that if something is of God it cannot be stopped. Do you believe this? If so, where is God calling you trust Him and step out in faith?

- At the Chapel this is a driving force behind our 10-year Vision -> we believe it’s so big that if God doesn’t show up that we are doomed to fail. But it goes deeper than that, we trust that we can boldly press into this vision because it is truly from Him and He cannot be stopped.
 - What part can you/your group play in this vision?
- Where do your group members need to trust God in their individual lives?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1) In Acts 4:13 we see that the people could tell Peter and John had been with Jesus. Is this true in your life? What steps can you take this week to spend more time with Jesus?

2) The disciples’ prayer in Acts 4:23-31 was incredibly powerful and a little intimidating. How can you grow this week in your prayer life?

3) The disciples left the Sanhedrin rejoicing for being considered worthy of suffering for the sake of the Gospel (Acts 5:40-42). How can you allow this to reframe your thinking this week as you begin to live with boldness for the Gospel and experience the inevitable opposition?