

## THE BOLDNESS OF PETER

TEXT: Acts 4:21-22

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. KEY PHRASE: "Because of the People."
- B. TOO MANY ARE CONCERNED WITH WHAT OTHERS THINK.

### I. BACKGROUND – ABUNDANT EVIDENCE.

- A. THE HEALING OF THE LAME MAN. WHO WAS HE?
  - 1. 3:2. From his mother's womb.
  - 2. 4:22. More than 40 years old.
  - 3. 3:2. Laid daily at the door of the temple.
  - 4. 3:2. Asked alms of the people.
  - 5. 3:10. Well known.
  - 6. 3:6-10. Healed in the name of Jesus (3:13, 16; 4:8-10)
- B. PETER'S SERMON:
  - 1. 3:9-11. The occasion.
  - 2. 3:12-26. The sermon itself
    - a. The purpose of the miracle (3:13a).
    - b. The accusation (3:13b-15).
    - c. The resurrection (3:15).
    - d. The prophets (3:18-26).
  - 3. 4:1-4. The Reaction.
    - a. The captain of the temple and the Sadducees (4:1-3).
    - b. The People (4:4).
- C. THE TRIAL:
  - 1. 4:5-6. Who was there? Annas, the High Priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander.
  - 2. 4:7. Captious question?
  - 3. 4:8-12. Peter's Defense.
    - a. To the point, Peter defines the question (4:8-9).
    - b. In the Name of Jesus of Nazereth (4:10).
    - c. The accusation again (4:10).
    - d. The claim: The Resurrection.
    - e. 4:11. Prophesied (Psa. 118:22).
    - f. 4:12. The assertion (John 14:6; 10:1).
  - 4. 4:13-18. The Council's Reaction.
    - a. Acknowledged Peter and John's background as fishermen. Marvelled.
    - b. Acknowledged the miracle (4:14, 16).
    - c. Disbelieved anyway!
    - d. The threat (4:17-18).
- D. PETER'S BOLD ANSWER (4:19-20).

### II. MANY LESSONS:

- A. FROM PETER'S ANSWER (4:19-20).
  - 1. Hearken to God, not to man (Gal. 1:8-9; Col. 2:8; 2 John 9).
  - 2. "We saw and heard" (vs. 20; 3:15; 2 Cor. 4:7-15).
- B. A LESSON IN COURAGE.
  - 1. Cowardice of the Council (vs. 21).
    - a. Ill treatment instead of refuting what was said – no repentance either.
    - b. Common reaction (Matt. 21:23-27; John 12:42-43).
  - 2. Courage of Peter and John.
    - a. Mark of God's servant (Acts 7:51-52; John 15:18-21).
    - b. History teaches us (Heb. 11:32-40).
    - c. Luke 6:26.

### III. APPLICATIONS:

- A. WHO ARE WE TRYING TO PLEASE? (Gal. 1:10; Matt. 6:1).
  - 1. Doing right makes enemies (Gal. 4:16).
  - 2. Acts 5:29.
- B. DO WE FEAR CONSEQUENCES? (Matt. 10:28; Rom. 8:31-39).

DOES THE CHURCH SUFFER BECAUSE WE ARE TOO TIMID?

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. HAVE YOU SUFFERED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE?  
IF YOU WERE ARRESTED FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN, WOULD THERE BE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT YOU?
- B. WHEN SUFFERING, WHO ARE YOU MOST LIKE?