

Acts 4-5

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I. Introduction.

II. Healing was an opportunity to preach the gospel, not give more healing.

A. Christ exposed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the false teachings of the Sadducees.

B. If you performed a great deed by some magical entity you could be put to death in Biblical times so Peter was in danger of doing things by Jesus power. (Deuteronomy 13, Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:26)

C. Peter followed after Jesus' pattern in His teaching. Our lives are communicating far more than we say. (Matthew 21)

III. Other religions tell us what we ought to be and what we need; Jesus Christ makes us what we ought to be and meets our needs. (Acts 4:12)

A. God came to us in Jesus Christ.

B. A more noble search is to link man to the divine. (John 14:6)

IV. The disciples had boldness - unashamed freedom of speech - sharing the gospel.

A. We follow one whom we have nothing to be ashamed of - Jesus.

B. We follow a truth we have nothing to be ashamed of - a loving Father.

C. How one gets boldness.

1. Pray for it. (Acts 4:29)

2. Trust in the Lord. (Philippians 1:14)

3. Live in victory through confession. (Proverbs 28:1, 1 John 1:9)

4. Memorize Scripture. (Jeremiah 20:9)

V. The disciples had unity and were willing to make a sacrifice.

A. These two themes show up all over in the Bible.

B. "One accord" is mentioned 11 times in the book of acts compared to two times elsewhere. The Apostles demonstrated their love by their acts for one another. (Matthew 18:19)

C. We are interdependent upon each other in the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians)

VI. Two disciples lied about the offering with heavy consequences.

- A. Do not boast about things you have not done.
- B. Do not promise things and not do it.
- C. Do not report things as they are not.
- D. The Devil can tempt us but not force us - there is always a way out.
- E. More people were converted.

VII. The angel commanded to share the Word.

- A. If a person only knows your good works, this is not good enough for they will glorify man instead of God.
- B. We are to let people decide for themselves about the gospel, which demands our witness.
- C. Any situation that came along became a witnessing opportunity for the gospel.
- D. The Apostles who were persecuted rejoiced at the opportunity to suffer for Him and refused still to be silent about Jesus.

Application questions

1. What role did Scripture memory play in ministry in the early church? What role should it play today?

2. What challenges have you had in sharing your faith? How was it that the Apostles were so bold in this in the Scriptures?

3. What are you doing to share your faith? Write down two people you know who need to hear the gospel. What will you do to reach out to them?
