

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 10th July 2022
Sermon Title: I am sending you...to show who you know
Bible Passage: Acts 4: 1 - 22

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What stands out to you from this passage?
- What is the back story to this passage (see Acts 3)?
- Why were Peter and John arrested?
- What questions are you left with from this passage?

Recapping the Preach

Have you ever heard the phrase 'face the music' - have you ever had to face the music? There is a sense that Peter and John are facing the music. Stu made the point that much of our witness takes place in the context of conflict and challenge.

- What are the similarities between Jesus trial (Mark 14:53-65) and Peter & John's trial?
- Read these verses: John 16:33, 2 Timothy 3:12, Matthew 10:22. What do they teach us about life as a follower of Jesus? What help is at hand for the follower of Jesus?
- What is the biggest challenge for you in following Jesus?

Stu highlighted Peter's response to the question 'by what power or name did you do this' and suggested that Peter (Acts 4:8-13) was intentionally referencing Isaiah 45:21-22.

- Read Isaiah 45:21-22 - in what ways does this verse point to the ministry of Jesus?
- What is the significance of vs.11

Stu then highlighted that the Sanhedrin noticed the courage of Peter and John and that they were ordinary, unschooled men who had been with Jesus.

- How would you describe courage? What acts of courage have you witnessed that greatly inspired you?
- How do you think you can develop courage?
- Is there any area in your life that God is calling you to step out in courage?
- Other than at church, where have you witnessed someone speaking courageously for Jesus?
- Why is it significant that the Sanhedrin 'took note that these men had been with Jesus'?

Stu concluded that the story and Peter's response (vs.19-20) to the warning from the Sanhedrin (vs.18) leaves us with two questions: the first is about loyalty and the Lordship of Jesus in our lives and the second is about the value we place on the gospel (how good is the good news to us, good enough to share?).

- 'Behind all mission stands the unshakeable determination of God to be known throughout his whole creation' - what do think of this quote?
- 'God wants to be shared!' - do you agree / disagree? How might you respond to this idea, what will you do about it?
- If a non-Christian friend asked you to explain the word 'gospel' or 'good news of the gospel' or simply 'good news' what would you say?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- What might God be saying to you in the area of growing in courage?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>