
Series: Looking Toward the Harvest

Living a Life that Draws People to Jesus

Acts 4:1-13 (NIV)

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.

²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

⁵The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. ⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone."

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

¹³When 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.

Acts 4:31-35 (NIV)

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. ³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

1. PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER ARE DRAWN TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND IT.

v. 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."

- The religious leaders of the day recognized Peter and John's power and wanted to know where it came from.
- People notice when you have been with Jesus.
- Soul winning is more about being winsome than the ability to win a debate.

1 Peter 3:15 (MsgB)

Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.

2. WE MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO SHARE THE ANSWER THAT WE HAVE DISCOVERED.

v. 8 "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them..."

- We never know when we will be called to share our story.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .

- Telling our story of faith gives people a chance to see a changed life.
- People can doubt our theology, but they cannot counteract our personal story.

3. GOD'S PLAN IS MORE ATTRACTIVE AND FULFILLING THAN ANY THAT MAN CAN DESIGN.

v. 33 "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them..."

- Man's plan to find God can never be as powerful as God's plan to reveal Himself to us.
- God draws people to Himself, but He wants us to get in on what He is doing.
- There is no higher privilege than to be a part of God's redemptive activity.

We should live our lives in such a way that people who are seeking God begin to seek us out to find the way.