

April 5th & 6th, 2025

A Bold Message that Reveals Hardness of Heart *The Exclusivity of the Message of Salvation*

Acts 4:1-12

Transformation Despite Opposition

Acts 4:1 "And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and Sadducees came upon them."

❖ When the biblical message is proclaimed, it produces conviction of faith or conviction that causes opposition.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 "Because our Gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction."

↪ The message of God, directed by Holy Spirit produces conviction that should lead to repentance.

John 3:20-21 "For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

John 16:8 "And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."

↪ When the message of God is rejected, our hearts harden, and we oppose the message.

Hebrews 3:7-8 "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.'"

↪ The message of God is a message of hope that challenges us to faith, submission, and obedience.

1 Timothy 3:16 "Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Acts 4:1b-2 "...The priests and the captain of temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead."

↪ What happened to these people?

1 Corinthians 2:14 "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

John 8:9 "But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him."

↪ What was the message Peter and John were preaching?

↪ How did people react to the message?

Acts 4:3 "And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening."

❖ The messenger for the Gospel at times experiences suffering and persecution for the message that produces life and fruit in others.

2 Timothy 3:12 "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

📖 *Matthew 10:16-20*

Acts 4:4 "But many of those who had heard the Word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand."

Anointed Among Questioning

Acts 4:5-7 “On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’”

- ❖ The commandment from Jesus to make disciples empowers the messenger to proclaim the truth.
Matthew 28:18-19 “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,’”
- ❖ The work of God in us directs us to testify of God’s work in our lives.
Mark 5:18-20 “As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged Him that he might be with Him. And He did not permit him but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.’ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.”
- ❖ The knowledge of the truth moves us to proclaim the message of the Gospel.
Acts 17:16 “Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.”
- ❖ The power of the Holy Spirit anoints us to proclaim the message of salvation in a supernatural way.
Matthew 10:19-20 “When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”
 - ↳ The anointing of the Holy Spirit equips the believer to proclaim truth.
Acts 4:8-9 “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed.’”
Luke 1:15 “for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.”
Luke 1:67 “And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying.”
 - ↳ This anointing is a supernatural filling that emboldens the Christian to act under the guidance of the Spirit.
Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Christ-Centered Instead of Religious

Acts 4:10 “Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing before you well.”

- ❖ The message we proclaim is Jesus. Jesus is the servant of God, the perfect sacrifice, the Messiah, the source of transformation, the proclamation of hope, and the everlasting life.
 - ↳ When our faith and the authority by which we exercise it are questioned, we are given a platform for proclaiming our hope in Jesus.
1 Peter 3:14-15 “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”
- ❖ The message of salvation leads us to believe in or reject Jesus; it is proclaimed and enhanced through the Holy Spirit, and it is a promise of eternal salvation.
Acts 4:11-12 “This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the Cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Endnotes:

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