

Kingdom Velocity

Acts 4:1-31

Big Idea

When the name of Jesus is opposed, Spirit-filled disciples respond with truth, courage, and prayer.

Background

Acts 4 continues the story from Acts 3, where Peter and John healed a man at the temple gate and then preached Jesus to the crowd. The healing created a public stir, and the religious authorities stepped in because the apostles were proclaiming resurrection in Jesus.

Opening Picture

Richard Wurmbrand was a Romanian pastor who refused to let the church give the Communist state the loyalty that belongs to Christ. After suffering imprisonment and torture, he later became a global advocate for the persecuted church and wrote *Tortured for Christ*.

Read

Acts 4:1-31

What happens?

- Peter and John are arrested for preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
- The authorities ask, “By what power or what name did you do this?”
- Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, says the man was healed in the name of Jesus Christ.
- The leaders threaten them and command them to stop speaking in Jesus’ name.
- The believers respond by praying for boldness, not safety.
- God answers by filling them with the Holy Spirit and enabling them to speak boldly.

Main truth

The kingdom does not stop when it meets resistance; in Acts 4, opposition becomes the setting for deeper courage, clearer witness, and stronger prayer.

Discuss

1. What most disturbed the authorities about Peter and John's message?
2. Why is the question "By what power or what name?" so important in this passage?
3. What stands out to you about Peter's response in verses 8-12?
4. Why were the leaders astonished by Peter and John?
5. What does verse 20 teach us about Christian witness?
6. When Peter and John return to the believers, what is the church's first response?
7. What do the believers ask God for, and what do they not ask for?
8. What would it look like for us to pray more like Acts 4 in our church, home, or workplace?

Notice the contrast

- The authorities want silence; the Spirit gives boldness.
- The authorities use threats; the church turns to prayer.
- The authorities defend their power; the apostles point only to Jesus.

Apply

- Where do you feel pressure to stay quiet about Jesus?
- Are your prayers shaped more by safety or by faithfulness?
- What would bold, Spirit-dependent witness look like for you this week?

Pray

"Sovereign Lord... consider the pressures around us and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness."