

Group/Individual Study

Series - Hope that Moves: Amazing Boldness

Passages: Acts 4:1-22, Mt 26:69-75, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 1:4-8

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 9/9

1. Read Acts 4:1-22. What are the religious leaders so upset about as our passage begins? What has been happening on the streets of Jerusalem since the beginning of the book of Acts? How would you describe what the religious leaders seem to be feeling now?
2. Look at Acts 4:13 and the verses that precede it. What is it that impacts the Sanhedrin about how Peter and John are interacting with them and with the crowds? How wonderful it would be if people looked at you and me and “took note that we have been with Jesus.” When people see that someone else has “been much with Jesus,” what types of things are they usually seeing? Do these things come out more in your life when you are close to Jesus?
3. Read Matthew 26:69-75. Compare the tone and substance of how Peter relates to opposition by the religious heavyweights in the Matthew passage to how he and John are relating to them now. Describe the difference you see. How do you account for this difference?
4. Read Acts 2:1-13. This amazing new boldness in the apostles that we see in Acts 4 actually began in Acts 2. What difference did the Holy Spirit make in how the early disciples followed and lived for Jesus?
5. Read Acts 1:4-8. What relationship did Jesus seem to imply between being filled with the Holy Spirit and our ability to live boldly as His witnesses? Why do you think this is?
6. Have you ever had a time(s) when you felt more empowered to live more boldly for Jesus? If you look back on those times, what went into that greater boldness? What have you found to be most key to living a life filled with God’s Spirit?