



Acts 4:13-22

OFFICIALS REACT TO THE POWER OF
JESUS DISPLAYED BY HIS FOLLOWERS

Blue-collar Boldness (4:13-14)

Review:

- ▶ Peter and John are called before the Sanhedrin
- ▶ Peter and John do not back away from the battlelines as the Lord Jesus advances His kingdom
- ▶ Acts 4:10–12

Blue-collar Boldness (4:13-14)

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

- ▶ The religious leaders are witnessing resurrection power on display
- ▶ These religious leaders are used to people cowering in their presence
- ▶ Peter and John are inspired by the Spirit of God to be courageous and bold
- ▶ Though Peter and John have no credentialed Rabbinical training, their knowledge and application of Scripture is undeniable
- ▶ Peter and John are just *common* men

Blue-collar Boldness (4:13-14)

- ▶ Even to the unregenerate, the enabling power of the Holy Spirit can be *astounding*
- ▶ The men on this ruling council have witnessed this sort of unwavering confidence and Scriptural insight before – *And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*
 - ▶ Dead hearts can mentally know the Scriptures and completely miss their meaning
 - ▶ John 5:39–40
 - ▶ People can know Scripture and miss the meaning of Scripture, because they don't know the God of Scripture

Blue-collar Boldness (4:13-14)

¹⁴ But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

- ▶ The rulers hear the bold witness of these followers of Jesus
- ▶ The rulers, who were hoping to condemn and stifle these followers of Jesus, are incapable of crystalizing their opposition
 - ▶ Romans 8:28–31
- ▶ Blue-collar boldness is available to us as well

Despots Deliberate (4:15-18)

¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another,

- ▶ The ruling council demands a closed-door session
- ▶ Their session is not to pursue Scriptural truth and direction
- ▶ They want to confer with each other so they can figure out how best to protect their credibility and positions of power
- ▶ God desires something different from us
 - ▶ Romans 12:2

¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

- ▶ Pursuing biblical guidance is not the answer to their question about what to do with these men
- ▶ They sense a threat to their positions and power

Despots Deliberate (4:15-18)

17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

- ▶ Jesus was put to death by their political maneuverings
 - ▶ Humbly reconsidering their ways is not on their radar
 - ▶ Jesus and His resurrection power cannot be silenced
- ▶ Let the despots deliberate and demand
- ▶ The work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who rules from heaven’s glory, cannot be stopped

Overreach Confronted (4:19-20)

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

- ▶ Peter and John respond to the verdict of the council to stop speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus
- ▶ Should people of God listen to God, or should they listen to the ruling council?
- ▶ The requirement of this ruling body is contrary to command given to followers of Jesus by the Lord
 - ▶ Matthew 28:18–20
 - ▶ Luke 24:46–49
 - ▶ Acts 1:8

Overreach Confronted (4:19-20)

- ▶ Governing authorities are established by God to reward good and punish evil
 - ▶ Romans 13:1–4
 - ▶ 1 Peter 2:13–15
- ▶ Good and evil are defined by the truth of God's word, not the whims and wicked designs of human hearts
- ▶ God does not grant governing authorities the right to violate their sphere of authority
- ▶ We need to take to heart the Messianic instructions of Psalm 2
 - ▶ Psalm 2
- ▶ Overreach will be confronted in the name and authority of King Jesus

Poll-driven Ethics (4:21-22)

21 And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

- ▶ These religious authorities continued to threaten them
- ▶ The Sanhedrin can tell they don't have the support of the people at this point
- ▶ Those who make decisions based on poll-driven ethics are self-serving and self-promoting
- ▶ The ways in which the Lord determines to build His church must be fine with us
 - ▶ Matthew 16:18
 - ▶ We will trust Him and obey His commands
 - ▶ We will not fear man; we will fear God

Questions to Consider

- ▶ How is your heart encouraged to seek boldness from God in the face of opposition?
- ▶ In what ways can you stay focused on your gospel mission as despots deliberate on how to rein you in?
- ▶ Why should we be willing to confront overreach by governing authorities?
- ▶ Why are poll-driven ethics ungodly?



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