

April 29, 2018  
Acts 4:1-29  
Sermon Notes

The church authentically following Jesus is:

1. Bold
2. An agent of healing
3. Persecuted

The nature of Peter's Boldness:

Being outspoken about the identity and significance of Jesus

Luke 12:4-5 ESV

4 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

"Jesus did not die on the cross to have us quivering in a corner because some human being might say something mean, or stop our paychecks, or sever a relationship, or even kill us."

John Bloom

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

***Pray this, for yourself and the church:***

Whatever it takes, Lord, decrease the hold that unbelieving fear has over me and increase my boldness to declare the gospel to everyone you put in my path.

Luke 9:2 ESV

2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

What we need to be healed of:

Anxiety

Fear

Loneliness

Frustration

Discouragement

Lack of Self-Esteem

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Luke wants the church-for-all-time to imbibe this kind of boldness - to know Jesus and what his gospel work means for the world. To know Jesus and speak clearly about who he is. This is being Christian in a confusing culture. This is how we're called to live.

John 15:18-20 ESV

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

2 Timothy 3:12 ESV

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

John 14:6 ESV

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of Jesus is unanswerable but still unacceptable

A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed - what gospel is that?

Oscar Romero

***We will be a church that boldly proclaims the healing gospel of Jesus, even if we suffer for it***