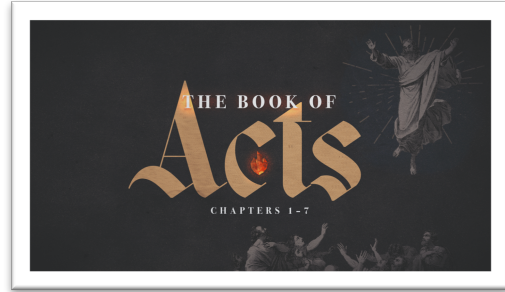


LOOK UPON THEIR THREATS

ACTS 4:23-31 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
DECEMBER 8, 2019



When facing obstacles in telling people about Jesus...

- *Pray with others about it (4:23-24a)*
- *Pray acknowledging God's greatness (4:24b)*
- *Pray the Scriptures (4:25-26)*
- *Pray the specifics of the situation (4:27)*
- *Pray affirming God's control (4:28)*
- *Pray according to God's will (4:29)*
- *Pray with expectancy (4:30-31)*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The most effective way to respond to this week's message is to pray with expectancy for boldness as you speak to specific people about why they should consider following Jesus. Group discussion time should be shorter so that you can take an extended time in prayer together.

- The prayer we're studying was borne from a sense of urgency about getting people to hear the good news and not out of standardized prayer routines. Urgency brought the people together and they "raised their voices" to God. Whose salvation is always an urgent matter in your mind? How does your prayer change when you know a matter is urgent?
- What do you expect God wants to do in the lives of the people you're praying for as you courageously present to them their need for Jesus?

- What is a word of Scripture that addresses the details related to telling the gospel to the people you most want to reach? How does that verse increase the expectancy level for you? *Write it out and try to commit it to memory.*
- Scripture clarifies the different roles played by God, and the church, as a person is led into eternal life. According to Romans 10:14-15, what part does your preaching play in another person's salvation and who empowers you to do it?
- How could you overcome the obstacles (threats?) you will face this week if you determine to reach out to the specific people God has laid on your heart? *Give key details about those obstacles and think about how a bolder approach on your part could be used to overcome the challenge.*

“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.”
 - Author, Jon Bloom,

PERSONAL AND GROUP PRAYER GUIDE

Before you take time to pray, consider if you have anything going on that would hinder your ability share your heart with others. If it is sin in your life, repent and seek the forgiveness Jesus offers you (1 John 1:9). If it is indifference, take some time to review Acts 4:23-31 and the message before you meet with others.

You can pray for people you know who are boldly presenting the gospel in contexts where it is opposed. Determine how you will commit to support one specific person who takes on this kind of ministry on a daily basis.

You can pray for boldness as you commit to following up with the people God put in your heart to talk to this week. Let yourself experience the urgency and don't be afraid to reveal that in your prayer time. Don't list obstacles as worries. Instead, pray with confidence that God will determine how each obstacle will be used in his sovereign plans.

You can increase the sense of togetherness in prayer, by speaking aloud and saying “Amen,” or “We agree!” as people pray things that are affirmed by the Spirit and the Word, and resonate with you. You may want to start by saying the Lord's prayer, and then allowing time for individuals to voice prayers. Stay on the topic of this discussion. The group leader should offer a final prayer when done.