



Acts: Believers' Pray for Boldness

February 8

INTRODUCTION: Acts is all about *Jesus' work, through the Apostles and disciples, by the Holy Spirit, to fulfil Acts 1:8*. A sign and a sermon in Acts are usually followed by a reactions, in this case negative and positive. Here the positive reaction continues and blends into the cameo of the early Church in vv. 32–37.

KEY POINT: witness, boldness, understanding, prayer, empowerment

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Zech 8:23, Glenn Taylor)

- What is this verse saying in context?
- What is the principle embedded in the verse?
- How do we see this principle at play in Acts?
- How can we model this principle today?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Missions, Ed Esau)

- What is the Scripture on missions about?
- What is it teaching about missions?
- How can we apply this to our context?

READ: Acts 4:23–31

QUESTIONS:

1. *A lame man had been healed, a sermon preached and the response was both negative (Peter and John before the Council) and positive (5000 men believed). Afraid of the people, the leaders released Peter and John on a warning. Our story captures their prayerful response.*
2. **V. 23- What did they do and why did they do it? How is this fellowship (Acts 2:42) in action?**
3. **How does opposition risk silencing our witness?**
4. Even though they'd just risked their lives, what was their response and how does it demonstrate their steadfast love and devotion to Christ?
5. **Why do commands to silence the Gospel lead to more boldness? Whose authority is greater, Christ's or the Sanhedrin?**

6. **V. 24- How did they interpret their experience through the Bible, in this case Ps 2:1–2. Why is this important?**
7. How is Ps 2:1–2 Messianic?
8. **V. 27- Who were the real life character that correspond to the “kings and the rulers” of the Psalm? Which arch-enemy of God is not spoken of? How can we see his hand in the negative reactions in the book of Acts?**
9. *V. 28- (c.f. Acts 2:23 an Isa 53:10)- Such raging is divinely appointed and yet humans are still responsible for it.* How does a knowledge of God's sovereignty engender trust and our responsibility action?
10. **V. 29- They don't pray against the leaders but ask for what...? (This is similar to the pray of persecuted Christians in other countries, how can we learn from this in Canada?)**
11. Why do we need the Holy' Spirit's emboldening to fulfil Acts 1:8?
12. *V. 30- The signs bear witness to the message (v. 29b, v. 31b). Miracles are not an end in themselves but...?*
13. **V. 31- What miraculous response is given to their prayer? What effect did this have as seen in v. 31b?**
14. *The shaken (trial) are now unshakeable (miraculous answer).*
15. **What encouragements do we have to preach the Word boldly? Why must we preach the Word?**
16. **What pattern (or structure) of prayer do we see in this passage?**

NEXT: Feb 15-Acts 5:1–12, Ananias and Sapphira