

Rise Up! Rise Up and Have Courage!

April 24, 2016 / Dan Solofra

¹ The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² **They were greatly disturbed** because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. Acts 4:1-2, NIV

The leaders of Israel still had a lot to _____.

³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they **put them in jail** until the next day. . . ⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. . . ⁷ They had Peter and John **brought before them** and began to **question them**: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Acts 4:3,5,7, NIV

The leaders used _____ to quiet their opposition.

⁸ **Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Acts 4:8-10, NIV

The _____ gave Peter courage to speak.

¹¹ Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the **cornerstone**." ¹² **Salvation is found in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:11-12, NIV

Jesus, and _____ Jesus, offers _____ in every sense of the word.

¹³ When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and **they took note that these men had been with Jesus**. Acts 4:13, NIV

Courage is the result of _____ with Jesus.

¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, **there was nothing they could say**. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ **But to stop this thing from spreading** any further among the people, **we must warn them** to speak no longer to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ Then they called them in again and **commanded them** not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "**Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!**" ²⁰ **As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard**." Acts 4:14-20, NIV

Peter knew that the leaders could not take anything of _____ from him.

He was playing to an _____ of one.

²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, **because all the people were praising God** for what had happened. Acts 4:21, NIV

Courage from God is _____.

MEMORY VERSE

When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John. . . **they took note that these men had been with Jesus**. Acts 4:13, NIV

Bottom line: Jesus frees us from fear though his resurrection from the dead. He gives us courage to do what is right in the face of fear and intimidation.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card

Growth Group Learning Activity for 4/24 - 4/30

Quick Review: Looking back to Sunday, is there something about the message that caught your attention or made you think differently about God or his Word?

My Story

When Peter was arrested for preaching about the resurrection, the religious leaders tried to intimidate him to get him to be quiet. He showed courage by standing up to their threats.

Look up the website for “Voice of the Martyrs”. Take 5 minutes to read some of the stories. Discuss the persecution that Christians face in our world today.

How do you think Peter was able to go from denying Jesus because of fear to being able to show courage in the face of hardship?

How can facing a fear be a liberating experience in one’s life?

Digging Deeper

1. Read **Hebrews 2:14-15**

What is the fear that people had in this verse?

How did Jesus take away this fear?

How does not being afraid of death help us to live more courageous lives?

2. Read **Acts 7:51-60**

Agree or Disagree. When a Christian shows courage they should expect God to save them.

Would Stephen have been smarter to simply keep his mouth shut and live to fight another day? Why or why not?

3. Read **Numbers 14:5-10**

In what way did Joshua and Caleb show courage?

Do you think it was easier for people at Bible times to show courage than it is for us today? Why or why not.

Take it home

This whole lesson is about facing fear and having courage.

Is there an area of your life where you are living in fear right now?

How can your brothers and sisters in Christ help you have courage and face that fear with Christ’s promises?

Prayer Requests