

Unstuck: How the Early Church Changed the World

Lesson 5

Acts 4:1-31

October 10, 2021

What Makes Sharing Christ Unstoppable

Introduction

Imagine you are looking to buy a new car and go to a car dealership to see what they have. The salesman seems timid and unsure of himself. He quietly asks you a few questions and shyly offers to show you a car or two, but he doesn't talk much otherwise. Finally, after a few awkward minutes, you thank him and leave the dealership.

Then imagine you go across the street to a different, competing car dealership. The car salesman eagerly meets you in the parking lot and greets you with a firm handshake and a confident smile. After a few quick questions, he eagerly shows you several car models he's sure you'll like. Finally, he passionately tells you about all the features of all the cars he shows you and offers to let you test drive any of the vehicles.

Between these two dealerships, from which one would you be more likely to buy? The first one with the shy salesman, or the one with the enthusiastic salesman?

Peter and John were the early church leaders, and they were like the salesman at the second car dealership. They loved the Lord dearly, and their Holy Spirit-infused testimony was bold and fearless. Because of their enthusiasm and authenticity, the early church quickly grew by the thousands.

Enthusiasm and authenticity count in our witness. If we are timid and lukewarm, no hearts will be won for the Lord, but if we speak of how His wonderful plan works and excitedly share the good news of the work of Christ on the cross, then hearts will be changed.

Memory verse: “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”—Acts 4:31

Pray and read Acts 4:1-31. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What were Peter and John doing that the Sadducees did not like? (Acts 4:1-2)
2. What question did the Sanhedrin ask Peter and John? (Acts 4:7)
3. What answer did Peter and John give the Sanhedrin? (Acts 4:9-12)
4. Why did the Sanhedrin not punish Peter and John? (Acts 4:21-22)
5. What did Peter and John immediately do after they were released? (Acts 4:23)

5. How did God's response to their prayers affect the disciples? (Acts 4:31)

Applying the passage

1. The Holy Spirit was central to Peter and John's confidence and testimony. Pray for a few minutes, and then write down two or three times that the Holy Spirit has emboldened you in ways that you would not have expected. (Acts 4:8, 31)

