

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

ACTS 4:1-15 (NLT)

“While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000. The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. Annias the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. They brought in the two disciples and demanded, ‘By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers and elders of our people, are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.’ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves.”

CONTINUE READING THE REST OF ACTS CHAPTER 4

REFLECT & EXAMINE:

1) When someone looks at the things you accomplish in your life, who do they see? Do they see you? Your spouse? Your parents? Your boss or team? Do they see Jesus?

2) How might the way in which I steward my resources like my home, my car, and my dollars better reflect that I am walking with Jesus on a daily basis? What specific changes do I need to make?

3) What might it mean specifically for me to live with “boldness” like Peter and John as it relates to my generosity? What would be something I could do boldly in my generosity that would cause people to say, “Wow, he/she/they must be walking with Jesus...”

4) What is something that you spend money on daily, weekly or monthly that is not a necessity? (It likely comes immediately to mind.) Would you be willing to sacrifice that thing or those things for two years if it meant more people coming to know God, find freedom, discover their purpose, and join His Kingdom **movement** to make a difference?

5) Where do I find fear in myself, and how I might live boldly for Jesus, and how can I overcome that?

PRAY:

Father, silence all created voices and only allow me to hear from the uncreated voice, which is Yours. Father make my life a reflection of who You are in every way. May I imitate You as your beloved child. Make me passionate for the things that You are passionate about and break my heart for the things that break Yours. May I walk in boldness in such a way that it is clear that I spend time with you, in Your presence. Challenge me and change me in whatever way you see fit and desire so that I may look like you, love like you, and live like you in every way.

READING PLAN:

Monday: **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

Tuesday: **Acts 4:1-21**

Wednesday: **Philippians 2:1-11**

Thursday: **Acts 2**

Friday: **Corinthians 3:1-18**

Saturday: **Matthew 14:22-33**

SONGS FOR WORSHIP:

Heart Like Heaven — Hillsong Worship

Spirit Of The Living God — Vertical Worship

Do It Again — Elevation Worship

More To Come — Passion & Kristian Stanfill

Yes & Amen — Chris Tomlin

Here As In Heaven — Elevation Worship

Open Heaven (River Wild) — Hillsong Worship

Freedom Reigns — Jason Upton

Sinking Deep — Hillsong Young & Free

Move — Jesus Culture & Chris McClarney

