

BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 6

Jason Brinker - 10/15/23

GROWING TOGETHER

When was the last time you said something to someone or a group of people that made them feel uncomfortable but in the end turned out to be what they needed to hear?

If the first one doesn't apply to you, reverse the scenario: When was the last time someone said something to you that made you feel uncomfortable but in the end turned out to be what you needed to hear?

GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 4:1-21](#) & [Luke 12:11](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

The [Sadducees](#) weren't keen on hearing about Jesus being resurrected. Peter and John's teachings were undermining their authority granted to them by Rome. Luke describes the Sadducees as being "greatly disturbed" because of this. **Have you ever seen someone have a similar reaction because of your belief in Jesus? How did you respond?**

Imagine the pressure Peter and John were under when they were questioned by the Sadducees. "By what power or name did you do this?" they asked after seeing the man healed. Peter and John could have given any name just to get out of the situation they were in. Ultimately, they gave the only name that could have done this, Jesus. **Have you ever been in a position where someone wanted you to denounce Jesus or not give Him credit?**

In Luke 12:11, Jesus tells us, "**When you are brought before, synagogues, rulers, and authorities...**" He didn't say "if". Jesus gives us an assurance in the next verse when He says, "**for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.**" Many Christians have trouble expressing themselves when talking about Jesus. Some even shy away from potentially difficult conversations because they don't want to seem ill-equipped to answer appropriately. **How does the Holy Spirit's guidance influence and shape the words we speak in our daily lives and spiritual journeys?**

Neither Peter nor John were scholarly men. They were ordinary fisherman who obeyed the call to follow Jesus. However, they were keen observers, students, and practitioners of Jesus' actions and teachings. Because of the authority, clarity, and boldness with which they spoke, it was obvious to the Sadducees that they had, in fact, been with Jesus. **If people looked at your life, would the way you conduct yourself be an indication of how much time you spend with Jesus?**

Verse 20 tells us that Peter and John couldn't stop talking about what they had "...seen and heard". Yet, truth be told, many of us are at the stage where there are certain situations that do stop us from talking about Jesus. **Share some of your challenges in this regard, past or present. If you have overcome those challenges, share how you were able to do so.**

The hope for many Christians would be that we would be like Peter and John, we would be bold in our faith, that we would be humble, and tenacious (even at the risk of being put in prison or persecuted). **Can you describe a time when people noticed you being bold in your faith?**

It has been said that the second greatest story ever told is the story of your own salvation through Jesus Christ. Perhaps you were impacted by someone else's story. Pastor Jason reminded us that, "If you want to impact your world for Jesus and reach your family and friends for Jesus, then you have to let the resurrected power of Jesus resurrect your life." **Have you ever been impacted by the transformative work God has done in someone's life, marriage, or family? Why is a changed life the greatest testimony?**

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

Pastor Jason asked us to commit to memory Acts 4:12. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven, given to men by which we must be saved". Pastor Jason believes this is one of the most important scriptures in all the of the Bible.

- The greatest testimony is a changed life.
- Salvation is given, not earned.
- Last week we spoke about opportunities that God places in front of us for us to act upon. Were you able to recognize any moments that the Holy Spirit called you towards? Were you able to share it with anyone, (Life Group or not) and talk through it? If you did experience something, what did you take away from it?

GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

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