

## **The Bad Report** Acts 4:17-18; 23

### **The Church Had a Problem**

This was a big problem because not talking about Jesus was out of the question. Why?

1. **Salvation is only found in Jesus.** Acts 4:12
2. **They could not stop talking about what they had seen and heard!** Acts 4:18-20

### **What was the church going to do in light of this bad report? Pray!**

Acts 4:24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God

### **Different Prayer in Bad Reports**

“Sovereign Lord,” Acts 4:24 God who is large and in charge.

Then they started to connect the dots.... Acts 4:25-26 Hey! We are seeing this come about before our very eyes.

Acts 4:27 Indeed *We get it! It's coming together now.*

### **Consider Their \_\_\_\_\_**

Acts 4:29a Lord, about the threats, consider them. We are aware of the threats, but we don't know how You are going to use those threats. But we want to make sure you are aware of them, too.

*If You don't do anything else, do this one thing...*

### **\_\_\_\_\_ Your Servants to \_\_\_\_\_ Your Word with Great \_\_\_\_\_.**

Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

They prayed that because they realized that sovereign God was active, and He was actively using them.

### **Stretch Out Your \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

Acts 4:30 Healing comes from the hand of God.

- Healing is for our benefit, but also for the benefit of others. It is a great evangelism tool.  
*“Divine Healing is the Dinner Bell to Salvation, Keep ringing the Bell.”*
- Healing was one of the ways Jesus proved himself to John the Baptist. Luke 7:22.

### **Perform \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_** Acts 4:30b

God accredited Jesus by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through him. Acts 2:22

Now in Acts 4 the disciples prayed that God would confirm their ministry with signs and wonders too.

**Next Step to Make a Difference:** The church was saying, “Give us boldness to speak your word, and then confirm it with healings, miraculous signs and wonders!” Consider, when was the last time you prayed that prayer?  
**Is that what you want?**

### **Filled With the Holy Spirit and \_\_\_\_\_** Acts 4:31

The result of this Different Prayer in Bad Reports was the filling of the Spirit and enabled boldness to speak.

**Next Step to Make a Difference:** For one week I will pray,  
**“God enable me to speak Your Word with great boldness!”** What will happen if you pray this?

1. You will be more aware of opportunities to speak and declare the truth.
2. You will be forced to face a fear that you have needed to deal with for some time.

### **Life App Group and Family Devotional Application**

1. What was the bad report the religious leaders sent to the church through Peter and John?
2. What would you be thinking about on your way home from jail for talking in public about Jesus?
3. What two problems did the church have with this order not to speak about Jesus? Acts 4:12;18-20
4. What did they do in light of the bad report? Acts 4:24 Considering the threats, what would your prayer have sounded like at that point?
5. What three things did they specifically ask for and why? Acts 4:29; Acts 4:30a and Acts 4:30b? This was Different than how we normally pray (help, bless, protect). Why don't we pray their way more?

Answers: Threats / Enable – Speak – Boldness / Hand – Heal / Miraculous – Signs – Wonders / Boldness