

Greenforest Community Baptist Church

3250 Rainbow Drive / Decatur, GA 30039

Teaching On Tuesdays – Facebook Live Bible Study with Pastor Emory Berry, Jr.

“The Dangers & Victories of Standing for Christ” - Acts 4:1-22 (6/15/2021)

MAIN IDEA – Living for Christ and sharing Christ with others is very rewarding and fulfilling. However, living for Christ and sharing Christ with others will spark demonic persecution. Hence, we must still stand for Christ knowing Christ is standing with us.

I. What should we know about the book of Acts?

- a) It is an **EXTENSION** of the Gospel of Luke.
- b) It **EDUCATES** us on the Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles.
- c) It explains how the Apostles **EVANGELIZED** and helped win souls for Christ.

II. Based on Acts 3:1-10, we experience UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS when we:

1. **PARTNER** with the right godly people (v.1a)
2. **PRIORITIZE** our spiritual priorities (v.1b)
3. **PRAY** perpetually to the Almighty God (v.1)
4. **PASS** life’s unexpected tests (v.2-5)
5. **PROFESS** Christ with others (v.6)
6. **PARTICIPATE** in helping others (v.7)
7. **PRAISE** God for blessing us and others (v.8-10)

III. MAIN POINTS from Acts 4:1-22

A. Preaching Jesus often comes with OPPOSITION from religious people (v.1)

¹The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.

B. Expect for people to be OFFENDED by the teachings of Christ (v.2)

²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

C. We will endure OBNOXIOUS persecution for Christ’s sake (v.3)

³They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

D. Sharing Jesus with others will OPEN the hearts of many but not all. (v.4)

⁴But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

E. Unfortunately, people will ORGANIZE to question and hinder the Gospel (v.5-7)

⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

F. We should be OUTSPOKEN and bold about our faith in Christ. (v.9)

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.

G. We must be clear that Jesus is the ONLY one who can save mankind. (v.11-12)

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."

H. God often uses ORDINARY people to do extraordinary things for His glory (v.13)

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.

I. God will make His power so OBVIOUS that people can't deny it (v.14)

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.

J. Demonic forces will try to OBSTRUCT you from speaking about Jesus (v.17-18)

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.

K. Our OBEDIENCE to God must outweigh the opinions of man (v.19-20)

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."

L. We should be OVERJOYED when others are delivered and blessed (v.21-22)

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. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.