

**TITLE: BOLDNESS IN EVANGELISM**

**TEXT: Acts 4:29** – and now Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants that with all boldness they may speak thy word.

**THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to encourage brethren to evangelize and to pray to God for the boldness necessary to do this work.**

**I. DESIRE BOLDNESS:**

- A. They had a mission (4:19-20 – “...obey God or man...you be the judge”)
- B. We cannot but speak the things. It wasn't an option. They had sold all they had for this cause (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32f). Is it an option for you? Matt 28:18-20 says No!
  - 1. The church is the **ARMY** of God. This presumes a battle; armies go to war- & we have marching orders:
    - a. 2 Tim 2:3 – Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ
    - b. 1 Tim 6:12 – Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life
    - c. 2 Tim 4:7 – I have fought the good fight (Paul)
    - d. Eph 6:17 – Our one weapon is the sword of the Spirit, the word of God
      - A majority of the army is admittedly not familiar enough with this weapon to use it. Honestly, most in the church don't even seem to realize that there's a war going on, much less have interest to be involved in it.
      - If you can convince your enemy not to fight then the battle is already won. And so often and in so many places it seems that this is exactly what Satan has done. If we don't fight then who will? We **MUST** start recognizing and fulfilling our mission!
  - 2. You can't pick and choose which commands we want to follow and which we don't!  
We're very serious about obeying God while we're within the walls of the building (opposing instrumental music). Why not such opposition to those who refuse to evangelize?
  - 3. 2 Cor 4:7 – the treasure (gospel) is in earthen vessels (Christians) – our responsibility (e.g., Paul, Ethiopian eunuch)
- C. Therefore boldness was a **necessity** for the early church, as it should be for us. We should all desire to save lost souls!

**II. ASK FOR BOLDNESS:**

- A. “And now Lord” – They knew where the source was
- B. Ask and it shall be given (Matt 7:7)
- C. The apostles' example:
  - 1. They asked for boldness (4:29)
  - 2. They spoke the world with boldness (Acts 4:31)
- D. An example of the source - **STUDY!** Acts 4:13 – they had been with Jesus  
Have you been with Jesus? Lately? Do people recognize it in your speech? your actions?  
A popular excuse is that I won't know what to say...how to answer questions... Studying is the remedy!
- E. Be careful what you ask for!

**III. USE YOUR BOLDNESS:**

- A. Be prepared to receive it and to use it!  
-Acts 4:31; 5:19-20 - apostles released from prison and told to preach (resulting in being beaten)
- B. Look for opportunities. When people ask you questions, look for the opportunity to spark a religious conversation.
- C. Results of the apostles' boldness
  - 1. Acts 5:14 – more believers added to the Lord
  - 2. Acts 6:1 – number of disciples was multiplied
  - 3. Acts 6:7 – word of God increased and the # of disciples multiplied
- D. Final illustrations
  - 1. 2 Kings 7:9 – the lepers outside Samaria went to the Syrian camp, found the spoil, and shared it with a dying city.
  - 2. The only question is, Who will go? Isa 6:8 – whom shall I send? Here am I, send me!

**CONCLUSION:** The church needs bold people! Each member should have a burning desire to save the lost. If the apostles felt the need to ask God for the boldness to speak the truth, then so should we.