



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of December 15, 2024

Acts 4:13-22

[13] Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. [14] But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. [15] But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, [16] saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. [17] But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." [18] So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. [19] But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, [20] for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." [21] And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. [22] For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

1. In our passage this week, Peter and John, ordinary fisherman, are standing confidently before a hostile powerful group of religious leaders. It was apparent to everyone that they had been with Jesus. What is so life-transforming about being with Jesus? How have you been changed by being with Jesus? What does it mean to be with Jesus and how do you do this practically?
2. Is belief and unbelief purely an intellectual exercise? Confronted with the exact same facts, why did some believe in Jesus and some did not?
3. Think about the Jewish religious leaders as well as the rich young ruler in Luke 18. What were some things that kept them from believing in Jesus Christ? Now think about people today. In our evangelism how can we address the issues of both the heart and the mind?
4. How do you know Peter and John truly believed in Jesus Christ? Do you believe it is possible for Christians to live in the "middle ground", with one foot in the world and one foot in the kingdom of God? Why or why not?
5. Does our passage give Christians the license to revolt against our governing authorities? Explain. Under what circumstances do Peter and John disobey Israel's leadership?
6. Rather than make excuses and try to run away, the lame beggar stood with Peter and John before the religious rulers' accusations. What did the lame beggar, along with Peter and John, understand about Jesus Christ, and what gave them the courage to withstand such persecution?