



**MEN OF COURAGE**  
“**Courage Revealed in Confrontation**”

*Acts 4:13-22*  
November 15, 2015

**The Council was \_\_\_\_\_** Vs 13-14a

- By Their Confidence & Boldness
- By Their Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
- By Their Closeness to Jesus

**The Council Was \_\_\_\_\_** Vs 14b

**The Council Was \_\_\_\_\_** Vs 15-16

- There Was Confusion & Concern
- There Was No Contesting a Miracle Had Happened

**The Council Was Sure** Vs 17-18, 21

- It Must Not \_\_\_\_\_
- They Must Not \_\_\_\_\_
- They Could Only Try to Scare & Silence Them
- They Set Them Free

**Peter & John were \_\_\_\_\_** Vs 19-20

- Their Challenge
- Their \_\_\_\_\_

**The Crowd Understood the \_\_\_\_\_** Vs 21



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**The Council Was Shocked** Vs 13-14a

- By Their Confidence & Boldness
- By Their Lack of Education and Training
- By Their Closeness to Jesus

**The Council was Silenced** Vs 14b

**The Council was Stunned** Vs 15-16

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- It Must Not Spread
- They Must Not Speak
- They Could Only Try to Scare & Silence Them
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**Peter & John were Strong** Vs 19-20

- Their Challenge
- Their Conviction

**The Crowd understood the Sign** Vs 21

## MEN OF COURAGE

### “Courage Revealed in Confrontation”

*Acts 4:13-22*

November 15, 2015 A.M. Service

The context from last week, Peter’s response to the question, really finishes his sermon the next day to the Sanhedrin council.

This was in response to what Peter had been sharing with them in a sense of presenting the message to the council. [Luke 21:15](#) We see this coming true right before our very eyes.

Notice though before we get to the response of the council and not on your outline and that is the lack of their response really to the Gospel invitation. We see religion is unmoved and unstirred by the Gospel message because it would require them to change, it wasn’t about their goodness or religion but instead about a relationship with a living Messiah. We do see what it does to them...

### **The Council Was Shocked Vs 13-14a**

- **By Their Confidence & Boldness**

These country bumpkins if you will were standing in the halls of power of the Jewish elite and standing before these well-educated men. Yet they were filled with such confidence and boldness, especially Peter? Their message they felt compelled to share and they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. It gave them great boldness. Contrast this picture with Peter just a few months earlier. No here he stands before this same council that had condemned his Savior and Lord and the one where he had denied Jesus, now he stands boldly and proclaims I am with Jesus Christ of Nazareth – make no mistake!

- **By Their Lack of Education and Training**

They had no formal rabbinical training or education at all to help them know these things and speak with the knowledge that they had! Just as in their mind Jesus hadn’t either.

Nothing wrong with having that education, and if you desire that and are able you need to pursue it. But you don’t have to have that to serve God.

Some say, well God hasn't equipped me to do that, God many times doesn't call the equipped, but equips the called.

God is looking for somebody who is willing and available.

- **By Their Closeness to Jesus**

Let's park here a minute, what a statement. They could tell they had been to Jesus – in fact I think they felt like they were talking to Him again and they had to be enraged and astounded all at the same time! How did they know? How they shared, what they shared, their countenance, how they lived, how they talked.

The ultimate desire is for someone to come and say, hey aren't you a follower of Jesus because of who you are and how you live.

And the reason they were amazed is because it was obvious by the way they responded, by what they said and how they reacted that they had been with Jesus – not just with the physical presence of Jesus but because they had been prayed up and ready and full of the Spirit of God – they had been with Jesus!

### **The Council was Silenced Vs 14b**

#### **Saw the man who had been healed**

Indisputable evidence of what they were sharing right before their eyes. We can point to those people and even our own lives as the evidence of the power of God at work. The council could see it right before them. They didn't know what to say in response to them so no one speaks in response to what Peter shared.

The world can explain away some things, but often times they are silenced by a person who forgives, by a person who is able to walk through difficult circumstances and still maintain their joy and faithfulness to the Lord.

### **The Council was Stunned Vs 15-16**

- **There Was Confusion & Concern**      **John 9 – Blind man healed**

Sent them out because they did not know what to do

They were at a loss, what do we do, which we do we go from here, we have to do something. We know that they council was not seeking to find the truth but rather for some way to avoid the truth!

- **There Was No Contesting a Miracle Had Happened**

They did not deny it, but neither did they accept it. [John 3:19](#)  
Notice earlier though don't even refer to it as a miracle, but now the  
recognize and say yet it is apparent that a miracle has happened –  
everyone in Jerusalem has seen it. (First preacher exaggeration!)  
Many people would not deny Jesus, but they don't accept him.  
To accept means to make as your own. Have you done that in your  
life with Jesus?

### **The Council was Sure** Vs 17-18, 21

- **It Must Not Spread**

One thing we are sure, we must be a stop to these, we cannot afford  
for this to spread any further. I mean look at what is already taken  
place. These men were really afraid because of what was happening  
and quite honestly because they couldn't explain what they were  
seeing. **ILLUS: The Bird Flu, SARS**

- **They Must Not Speak**

Sadly many of us today have given in to this command, but it is not  
quite so obvious as this, more subtle.

You don't have time, they are not really interested, they don't care,  
you are too busy, they don't understand, they aren't like me

Whatever the reason, we are too often too silent and therefore we are  
not speaking and teaching the name of Jesus.

Secondly, we must continue to preach in the name of Jesus no matter  
what!! Notice too when they are deliberating they won't even say His  
name, only when they want the disciples to be clear what they are  
saying do they say you must not preach in the name of Jesus!

- **They Could Only Try to Scare & Silence Them**

As if that was really going to change anything, I mean we are serious,  
you better not, although they did not say it with any real great force  
and no punishment behind it. They were afraid to do anything so they  
say again to them, like we are really serious this time!

- **They Set Them Free**

(no basis on which to punish them) nothing else they could do.

the man had been healed & the crowd was glorifying God

Notice there is no debate on what the disciples said, nothing to try and

disprove the resurrection or the facts surrounding it nor the miracle of the healed man.

They could have put an end to it. [See F.F. Bruce quote](#)

### **Peter & John were Strong Vs 19-20**

- **Their Challenge**

You decide whether we should obey you or God - Put it on the council! It wasn't is it right, is it popular, is it what I want, etc. We have to be careful though we do this carefully and rarely.

- **Their Conviction**

This is a huge crossroads for the early church for if they had caved here things would have been radically different, yet they didn't! The prohibition by the Sanhedrin only strengthened their resolve and determination to keep speaking in the name of Jesus. And what were they speaking - We cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard. They had witnessed it and now wanted others to see and hear it too!

They did not waiver, they immediately responded, they were walking with the Lord. They weren't disrespectful nor did they argue nor did they pretend to submit and then go and disobey. They simply said, we can't stop speaking – we have no choice – Paul would echo their statement later in [1 Corinthians 9;16](#) when he said, “Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel!”

There was a freshness in what they said.

Where have you seen God working in your life recently, what is teaching you, what do you have to share.

Many times we don't share because we don't have a lot to share!

**ILLUS: Voices of the Faithful**

[I Peter 3:13-15](#)

**QUOTE: Even the existential philosopher Albert Camus said, "What the world expects of Christians is that Christians should speak out, loud and clear .. in such a way that never a doubt, never the slightest doubt could arise in the heart of the simplest man."**

### **The Crowd understood the Sign Vs 21**

The crowd understood the sign, the miracle, it was Jesus!

The Council didn't get the sign, they missed it and rejected it.  
Because the people were all glorifying God for what had happened to the lame man who had been this way for over 40 years!!  
They were giving God all the glory, not the disciples, or anyone else.  
When God gets the glory great things happen!

**Closing ILLUS: Aristides Apology written about Christians in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century**

### **Our Response:**

- Have you accepted the claims of Christ or have you rejected them?  
Well I have not decided yet, to not decided it to decide.  
Come to Jesus today, he is waiting. See the sign and do something about it
- Are you daily experiencing the boldness of Christ in your life? How does that happen? The daily filling of the Holy Spirit/
- Can people look at me and you and see Jesus? What adjustments do you need to make in your life today to reflect that truth?
- Who are you obeying in your life? Who are you listening to make your decisions, is it God or man?
- Are you daily ready to make a defense of the gospel, ready to share?
- Are you and I daily experiencing the power of God in our lives, daily experiencing Christ that then overflows as we share?