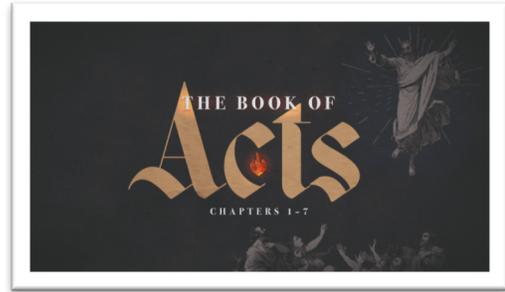


WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK

ACTS 4:13-22 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
DECEMBER 1, 2019



What the vocal critic of the faith needs from you, Christian, is boldness (4:13), reasonableness (4:14-18, 21a), clarity (4:19-20), and Christ...not you (4:21b-22).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the most exciting news you've ever felt compelled to share and how did you tell the story? *(Perhaps you were able to announce a new job, a new child in your home, an engagement, a reward, or a personal victory.)*
- Do you naturally speak boldly about Jesus? How does the following definition help you understand boldness in a better way than before?

Boldness: the right and the willingness to express one's opinion freely.

- Sharing the gospel is meant to be a matter of conviction and not some mastery of technique. How might you be overcomplicating the issue of evangelism in light of the commentary that Peter and John were "*uneducated, common*" people addressing the public in the same venues where trained orators and theologians spoke?
- Pastor Todd wrote this question in his notes: "*We have a worship and devotion deficiency. It's not that we don't spend enough time with unbelievers. It's that we don't spend enough time with Jesus. What needs to change to turn that around?*"

- Do your political and/or ethical views make you an unreasonable person when interacting with people who must first respond to the gospel before they can ever have the power to change their sinful behaviour?
- When it comes to being unreasonable regarding the primary importance of responding to the gospel, what are you more concerned about in other people's lives than their relationship with Jesus? *(If you don't consider yourself unreasonable, give an example of a reasonable approach to people who are closely identified with biblical sins?)*
- The apostles testified that they could not but speak, however, this does not appear to be the testimony of many Canadian believers today. Sadly, the gospel is not presented with the clarity and urgency that we see in Acts. A lack of belief in Satan and Hell is a factor that Keith Green proposed in the song called, "No One Believes in Me Anymore". Is this sort of unbelief a factor for you? What are other factors that may contribute to general apathy and widespread passivity when it comes to sharing the gospel?
- After you've lived as a Christian for a while, the necessity of Jesus as the only explanation for the change in your life can become clouded. There can be a quiet, internal uprising of pious pride that would usurp Jesus' glory and whisper that you are the one responsible for the changes you're experiencing. To really change, people need Jesus, not you. How do you remain humble as you start to see changes in other people's lives as a result of your ministry? *(Give an example how a spiritual discipline or accountable relationship that helps to keep you humble as you engage in ministry.)*
- If you have any sense of conviction regarding the above questions, how do you want to live and speak differently? What is the next step you need to take toward boldness, reasonableness, and clarity as you encourage people to follow Jesus?