**Your Hand and Plan**
Acts 4:23-31

<u>**Intro**</u>
Impressed with the relevance of Scripture
Escalation of hostility toward the early church
        Imprisonment -> Threatening -> Beating -> Martyrdom

<u>**Who They Prayed To**</u>
Sovereign Lord (despotes) an absolute ruler
***Creator of all things***
        Psalms 33:6-11

***Your hand and plan*** (Isaiah 46:9-11, Ephesians 1:11)
        Sovereign over Nations and rulers (Daniel 2:20-21, Proverbs 21:1)
        Sovereign over the large and small details of our lives (Psalms 139:16-17, Matthew 10:29-31)

<u>**What They Prayed For**</u>
Our prayers arise out of our desires and sometimes I think our best prayers arise out of our desperation. What is it that you desire? What is it that you are desperate for?

Although we would say we don't believe in the prosperity gospel, our prayers often reveal that we secretly do. We're very honest when we pray. We ask for what we want most.

What they didn't pray for

They did not pray for
    1. Protection from the Jewish counsel
    2. To escape persecution
    3. Ease or comfort

Do you pray more for:
        Physical health or spiritual health?
        Advancement of your career or advancement of Christ's kingdom?
            *In this last week, have you prayed more for your own comfort than you have for the lost people around you to come to know Christ?*

**\***We have a way that we think things should go
        We think it should be easy for the Apostles...
        We think we should have it easy
        We tend to think that the best thing for the Church is if we had a godly president.
            *At the end of the day we want to be sovereign.*

What did they pray for?
Boldness to continue to do what Christ had already commanded them to do.
        Right in the face of escalating opposition

What did the truth of God's sovereignty do for them?
        It didn't make them sit back and do nothing

<u>**Conclusion**</u>
We need some holy desperation!

We don't need absolute dependency or desperation to *play* church.

The Road isn't a messiah for this community.

Boldness to let go of the material riches and comforts of this life