

# **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

## **Part 11 – Obey God**

### **Acts 4.13-22**

Observed – Perceived / Grasped – Recognized / Knew

- The more we are with Jesus, the more we live fearlessly (not perfectly – Galatians 2)
- The transformation was genuine and could not be ignored
- Mounting evidence (boldness, man)
- Terrible strategy for dealing with it – “don’t speak again”

#### **4 Lessons Learned**

##### **God is willing to use the willing**

- The primary qualification is willingness (and we all long for something more)
  - Education matters but Jesus matters more
  - Cannot divorce spending time in the Word and growing in knowledge of it from spending time with Jesus and growing in relationship with Him – they go hand in hand
  - Read – Examine – Apply - Pray

##### **The church is at its best when focused**

- Focused on sharing the Gospel in word
  - Our message is Jesus was crucified and raised by the power of God – not politics, economics, leadership, education theory, ethics, self-fulfillment
- Focused on showing the Gospel in deed (Acevedo @ Calder Rd)

##### **Opposition should be expected**

- Religious – people who don’t like what you’re doing because it brings conviction or otherwise threatens them (often discounted on technicalities)
- Cultural – people who have something to lose if the system shifts underneath them
- Spiritual – powers that do not want to see the Gospel go forward, bondage broken, sinners repent, life received

##### **Meet opposition with obedience (not argument)**

- Good works (v.14)
  - The temptation we face is to let our weariness overcome our work ethic (Gal. 6.9)
- Testimony (v.19-20)
- It’s irrefutable if you’re telling the truth
- You may not be before the Sanhedrin, but you do give witness before neighbors and friends

## Questions for Discussion

1. When you reread the story from Acts 4.13-22, what part of the text most sticks out? Why do you think that it does? How does that part fit into the larger story of Acts 3 and 4?
2. In the sermon, we said that God is willing to use the willing and that willingness is the primary qualifier for usefulness. How have you seen that be true in your own life? In the life of our church?
3. Knowing we value education as a culture, how do we best hold onto that value without making an idol of it? What is the difference between transformation and knowledge? How do they relate to one another?
4. Practically, Trent used REAP (Read – Examine – Apply – Pray) as a way to spend time in the Word, growing in the knowledge of it *and* being transformed by it. What are your own best practices for spending time in the Bible? How have you seen them transform your life?
5. In the sermon, we argued that the church is at its best when focused on sharing and showing the Gospel. Do you find that to be true? Why or why not? Read 1 Corinthians 2.1-5. What was Paul focused on? When we say “the church,” we are not really talking about an institution but a people. How, then, do you measure your level of focus on what’s most and eternally important right now (showing and sharing the Gospel)?
6. What kind of opposition do you find yourself facing right now? How would meeting that opposition with obedience express itself? What might be some of the outcomes? What is one step you need to take to obey that you are not taking yet?