



What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Go to Your People - In crisis, the apostles immediately went to their community of believers for support and prayer.
2. Prayer Should Be Our First Instinct - They didn't strategize first; they prayed first, acknowledging God's sovereignty.
3. Ground Yourself in Scripture - Knowing God's Word helps us understand what He has and hasn't promised, giving us proper expectations.
4. Ask for Boldness, Not Just Relief - Their prayer wasn't to remove the problem but to give them courage to remain obedient.
5. Boldness Comes from God's Presence - The Holy Spirit empowers us to do what God calls us to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 4:23-31. Break down the apostles' prayer. What did they acknowledge about God before making their request? Why is this significant?
2. Who are "your people"—the community you turn to in times of crisis? If you don't have this, what steps can you take to find or build this community?
3. Is prayer your first instinct? Be honest—what is typically your first response when facing a problem or crisis? How can you make prayer more instinctual?
4. The apostles prayed for boldness to continue being obedient rather than for God to remove the threat. When have you prayed for relief instead of for strength to remain faithful? What would change if you shifted your prayers?
5. Knowing Scripture helps us understand what God has and hasn't promised. What are some things people commonly expect from God that He hasn't actually promised? What has He promised?

6. What does "living boldly" look like in your everyday life? Consider these areas:
 1. At work or school
 2. In your neighborhood
 3. On social media
 4. In your family relationships
 5. In your church community

7. Three weapons Satan uses against the church are deception (abandoning truth), seduction (abandoning holiness), and persecution. Which of these do you see most prevalent in today's culture? In your own life?

8. Like the example about needing a fresh reminder of God's Holy Spirit during a stressful mission trip. When have you experienced God's presence in a tangible way during a difficult time?

Practical Applications:

1. **Build Your Community:** Reach out to someone in the group or church to develop a deeper friendship. Invite someone to coffee or lunch specifically to build relationship. Join a serving team or ministry to connect with others.
2. **Scripture Grounding:** Memorize one promise from Scripture that brings you comfort or courage. Study one passage that reminds you of God's sovereignty. Write down 3-5 biblical truths you can return to during difficult times.
3. **Practice Bold Obedience:** Invite a coworker or neighbor to lunch with the intention of building relationship. Share your testimony with someone this week. Take a step of obedience you've been putting off (serving, giving, reconciling a relationship).
4. **Prayer Focus:** Each day this week, start your prayers by acknowledging God's sovereignty (as creator, as revealed in Scripture, as active in history). Pray specifically for boldness in one area where you've been holding back. Ask God for a fresh reminder of His Holy Spirit's presence