

"HAVE YOU BEEN WITH JESUS?"

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TEXT: Acts 4:1-31

OBJECTIVES:

1. To inform Christians what is needed of us for people in the world to realize that we have been influenced by Jesus Christ.
2. To encourage Christians to follow the example of Jesus and the Apostles so that by doing so, we can be a positive example to the world.

INTRODUCTION:

1. What a wonderful opportunity the Apostles had to spend time with Jesus and to learn from Him (just think about it!).
2. The positive influence Jesus had upon the lives of the Apostles was so great that they were even willing to die for Him!
 - a. Peter and the Apostles were willing to die for Jesus (Matthew 26:35).
 - b. Paul was an imitator of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:1).
3. Anyone who saw the Apostles and the way they lived their lives knew that they had been influenced by Jesus Christ.
4. **Carefully think about this:**
 - a. Do your friends at work know that you are a Christian?
 - b. Do your friends in college know that you are a Christian?
 - c. Do your neighbors know that you are a Christian?
5. In this lesson I want to encourage the church to live our lives in such a way as to allow the world to see and realize that we have been with Jesus.
6. **In this lesson I want to...**
 - a. Look at the remote context of our text under consideration
 - b. Show the things we need in our lives to let people know we have been with Jesus
 - c. Show the blessings of having been influenced by Jesus
7. As we listen to this lesson, please allow the words of such to sink into your ears (Luke 9:44). May we also plan to practice the things we learn from God's Word (James 1:22-25).

THE REMOTE CONTEXT OF ACTS 4.

1. Peter and John healed a man who was lamed in chapter 3 (Jerusalem).
 - a. As a result of this miracle, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon the Apostles (4:1).
2. This is approximately the year 33 AD.
3. The church of Christ has been already established and continues to grow numerically (Acts 4:4).
4. The Apostles Peter and John are preaching the gospel of Christ in Jerusalem just like Jesus commanded them to do (Acts 1:8).
5. The church begins to experience difficulties by those who do not want the message of Jesus to be preached to people (Acts 4:1-3, 18).

THINGS CHRISTIANS NEED IN THEIR LIVES TO SHOW THE WORLD THEY HAVE BEEN WITH JESUS.

1. **#1: We need to be disciples of Jesus:**
 - a. Peter and John were disciples of Jesus!

- b. The Greek word for “disciple” is **μαθητής** which means: One who engages in learning through instruction from another; a follower of someone (BDAG).
- c. **Who is a disciple of Jesus?**
- d. A disciple is one who keeps the Word of Christ (John 8:31).
 - i. To keep the Word means to believe the Word, and to continually practice what the Word teaches (James 1:22-25; Luke 11:28).
- e. A disciple is one who loves his brethren (John 13:34-35).
- f. A disciple is one who bears much fruit constantly abiding in Christ (John 15:8).

2. Jesus was a disciple of God:

- a. He obeyed God (John 4:34; 6:38).
- b. He preached what God told Him to preach (John 12:49-50). This is what a disciple does!
- c. He worked as His Father did (John 5:17).
- d. He imitated His Father (John 5:19).
- e. He did the Father’s will (John 5:30).
- f. This is what a disciple does!
- g. These things must be practiced by all Christians if we want the world to know that we have been with Jesus!

3. #2: We need to possess “boldness” in our Christian life:

- a. The word “boldness” comes from the Greek word **παρρησία** which means a state of confidence and courage; to be frank and outspoken; to be free from fear (BDAG).
- b. Peter and John were filled with boldness as they preached the Gospel of Christ!
- c. We need to pray for boldness if we don’t have it (Acts 4:29, 31).
- d. Boldness is a must if we want to be successful at preaching the Gospel! (Romans 1:14-16; 1 Corinthians 9:16).
- e. Peter and John and the rest of the Apostles possessed boldness in their lives.
- f. Jesus Christ possessed boldness in his life! This is why He was able to do all the things He did!

- 4. These two things are needed in order to let the world know that we have been with Jesus!

7 BLESSINGS OF BEING A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS WHO POSSESSES BOLDNESS AS A RESULT OF HAVING BEEN WITH JESUS.

- 1. We will preach the resurrection from the dead with boldness (Acts 4:2).
- 2. Nothing will stop us from serving Jesus Christ (Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29).
- 3. Many will believe in the message of salvation (Acts 4:4).
- 4. The church will grow strong spiritually and numerically (Acts 4:4).
- 5. We will not be afraid to tell the world that Jesus is the only way to salvation (Acts 4:12; John 10:9; 14:6).
- 6. People will know we have been with Jesus! (Acts 4:13).
- 7. People will glorify God (Acts 4:21; Matthew 5:16).

CONCLUSIÓN:

- 1. In this lesson we have examined those things needed to let the world know that we have been influenced by Jesus.
- 2. May God grant us the wisdom and the courage to live our lives like Jesus, Peter, John, and the rest of the Apostles did!