

11.18.20 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: The Power of Jesus Name

Scripture Reading: [Acts 4: 23 – 31 \(also 4: 13 and 4: 18 – 22\)](#)

Reflection: Rev. Evan Heerema

I have gotten to know Pastor Henry well over the years. Even though he asked me to write this devotional on verses 23 – 31, I felt inclined to add some earlier verses to give some necessary background to the text. And I am hoping that Pastor Henry will not even require me to ask forgiveness. After all, he is a Godly and good man.

The reason I felt we needed to read those additional verses is because I think they reveal the key to the confidence the apostles had to ask God for boldness to speak his word. The apostles are not doing anything in their own power. We have all met people who are bold in their own supposed abilities or bold in their school's sports team to win a game. Remember hearing about little boys bragging that their father could beat up someone else's father. "My dad is bigger, better, smarter, richer, etc. than your dad."

The spiritual/religious leaders in Jerusalem noticed that Peter and John were unschooled, ordinary men who had been with Jesus. Their confidence and prayer for boldness was not based on any earthly power or haughty bravado. Rather it was based on their relationship with Jesus, and Jesus' exalted position. Luke quotes the apostles including in their prayer this confession, "'The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.' Indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed." Knowing God's anointed One and having the power of God's anointed One living in you, gives legitimate boldness. And it humbles you so that you will not abuse that power, but rather, serve the One who gives you that power. The apostles did not join with "their people" to pray for power to do a lot of miracles; they prayed only for boldness to speak. Any miracles that would accompany their speaking would be done for the glory of God and in Jesus' name. And to confirm that their prayer was in line with God's will, a proper discernment, a shaking of the building they were in occurred. On the first New Testament Pentecost the sound like a wind and what appeared as flames of fires swept through Jerusalem and settled on the apostles, and they spoke with boldness in a multitude of languages. Now the building was shaking, and they spoke again with boldness.

Do you wonder what you might have to do to consistently speak the Word with boldness? There are lessons for us here. 1) Understand God's history of salvation. Though the kings of the earth scoff at God, he will have the last laugh because His Son, Jesus has been anointed King kings and is reigning over all things, with all authority given to him in heaven and in earth ([Matthew 28:18](#)). Nothing tops that. 2) Pray with humility that whatever happens around you, your primary goal is to speak the Word of God boldly and effectively, making people take notice of what God is doing. 3) And finally, give God all the glory for anything beyond human understanding (miracles). Always strive to give God glory in everything.

Prayer:

Almighty God, Father of the Lord Jesus, we offer ourselves to you fully aware in our minds that no ruler of this earth can ever stand up against your Son. They might laugh, but you will always reign. Thank you for letting us know that. And Father, equip us deep within our hearts that the authority of Jesus means that we can

confidently and boldly tell about him. People may laugh, some might scorn, but He who laughs last, is God Almighty, for all eternity. Thank you for letting me be on the side of victory, in Jesus' name. AMEN

Songs for today:

[There is Power in the Name of Jesus](#)