

Realities of Ministry for Children of God

Acts 4:13 - 37 (NIV)

Peter finds himself defending his faith in the Lord.

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Nothing else can fully deliver you from captivity to the things of this life other than faith and followership of Jesus the only Begotten Son of God.

*¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were **unschooled, ordinary men**, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

Peter and John were not seminary trained, but they were learned in the Lord. They lacked education but God had granted them wisdom. They had moved from being wishy washy disciples to being apostles....from students to advocates.... In example, in word, in every deed of the Good News they have found in Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

Resistance and Resentment meets Obedience. If you aren't being led to resent the Obligations of following Christ, you will experience the resentment of others what you suggest they TOO should be concerned to follow Jesus.

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

Sharing of joys and concerns is a function of the fellowship of all believers.

²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

Reaffirming and Reminding ourselves of who we follow - Who He Is

²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

The Plans of Men - the futility of following any plan of man... The limitations of our dreams and schemes vs the limitless love and grace found in obedience to God.

Choosing between the EASY and the More EXCELLENT WAY

²⁷Indeed 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. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Only what God will allow will happen to you when you are walking and working in obedience. When you are walking in disobedience, disregard, and rebelling against the righteous expectations of God

When we are acting as spoiled and demanding children, we have nothing to expect from God except certain and awesome corrections to show us the error of our ways.

²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

An Appeal for Greater Ministry Effectiveness Under Pressure

³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Realities of Ministry for Children of God

RESULTS of Bold Faith

1 ³¹After they prayed, *the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

God responds to the prayers of righteous men

Not getting a response that that you know God wouldn't have a problem with?

Check your righteousness

Check the nature of your prayers

If you are asking to be used to do what God would have done....your prayers will be answered

If you are asking to have God help you do what you want doneyou might want to be careful, because if it seems to come true, it may not be God granting it to you.

2 ³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

3 ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

4 ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

5 ³⁶*Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement),* ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

One of the most touching stories concerning Pope John XXIII is about the day after Christmas several years ago when he visited one of the worst prisons in Rome. It was the first time in ninety years that a pope had gone to a prison, and in greeting the prisoners, the Pope said, "You could not come to me, so I have come to you." And that, I command to you, is the spirit of Christ's love. He came to rescue us because he loved us, and his love never ends.

-- W. Frank Harrington, "The Love That Brought Him," Preaching Today.