

Peter's 'Arresting' Sermon

Acts 4:1-4

PART FOUR

Introduction

Three Essential Elements to any Gospel Presentation:

1. *Explanation*
2. *Exhortation*
3. *Encouragement*

The Church is born at Pentecost. Proclamation of the Christ is made. Now persecution begins.

- † Stephen
- † James
- † Matthew
- † James
- † Matthias
- † Andrew
- † Peter
- † Paul
- † Jude
- † Bartholomew
- † Thomas

300 years of severe persecution from Emperors Nero (AD 54-68) to Diocletian (AD 284-305).

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” 2 Timothy 3:12

What are some ways that we face persecution in our day?

1. People won't like us.
2. People will disagree with us, or argue with us.
3. People might get angry, or even violent with us.
4. People will exclude us, ignore us, or avoid us altogether.
5. People won't hire us, or promote us at work. We could even get fired.
6. People will tell us not to talk about our faith at work, in school, or in other public places.

Why are you here?

Answer: For the sake of the Gospel.

Mark 8:35-38

Matthew 10:19-21

Some important things we should know...

When the Word of God is proclaimed it becomes a mighty Sword.

Acts 4:1-4

Luke 2:34-35

Matthew 10:34-39

“So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.” John 7:43-44

“And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, ‘He is a good man,’ others said, ‘No, he is leading the people astray.’” John 7:12

The public proclamation of the Gospel immediately divides people into one of only two categories:

- 1) those who are drawn by the truth in God’s Word, and to the Person of Christ it reveals;
- 2) those who are repulsed by the truth in God’s Word, and by the Person of Christ it reveals.

“Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” Luke 12:51

John 9:16

John 10:19-21

“But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.” Acts 14:4

Persecution is one of our Lord’s most effective means of winnowing out the wheat from the chaff.

Acts 13:45-50

The Name *Jesus Christ* is polarizing.

Acts 4:17-18

Acts 5:40-42

Therefore, Christians who obey the call to proclaim the Name of Christ should not be stunned or offended when people think less of them, mock them or reject them.

Ezekiel 3:7-11

“If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.” Matthew 10:25

Matthew 5:10-12

John 15:18-20

“Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.” John 16:2

“and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” Matthew 10:22

“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” 1 Peter 2:21

1 Peter 3:13-15

3 Pieces to a Heart-Piercing Public Proclamation:

1. *Man's Problem*: Universal Sin & Condemnation
2. *God's Provision*: Propitiation by Jesus Christ
3. *God's Praise*: Eternal Life!

“you will be my witnesses...to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Acts 4:29-30