

The Church at Prayer: The Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)

Last week: Peter & John give a defense of healing & preaching the Gospel

Sanhedrin could do nothing against Peter and John: feared the people

Sanhedrin could not deny the healing of the man born lame: over 40 years old

They threatened Peter and John to not teach or preach in Jesus' name

Peter's response: judge for yourself: obey God or man! They will not obey

I. Setting: Peter & John Released and Report to the Church (4:23,24a)

Peter & John released, find apostles & disciples: report all Sanhedrin said

The church, the gathered believers respond to these threats with prayer

We note that persecution united them "they were together in prayer"

Acknowledges: sovereignty of God over all creation – quote Psalm 146

II. Perspective: God's Sovereign Power and Purpose (4: 24b-28)

They acknowledged God's sovereignty over the schemes of sinful rulers

Psalm 2 through David's lips the suffering & exaltation of Jesus foretold

Jesus, the anointed One, God's Son enthroned on God's holy hill.

Nations rage, rulers plot & scheme: Herod & Pontius Pilate crucify Jesus

Seek stop God's Kingdom: do whatever your hand & purpose determined

III. Petition, Response: Boldness in an Unshakeable Kingdom (4:29-31)

"Look on their threats" don't spare us, but give us boldness & courage

Manifest power in the Gospel: heal, signs & wonders through apostles

The place where they were praying was shaken (Heb 12:28-29)