

Praying and Preaching in the Face of Christian Opposition

(Acts 4:23-31)

Central Idea: *Christians can continue to boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus when faced with opposition because they know that God is sovereign over creation and history.*

1. Backdrop of the believers' prayer (Acts 3:1—4:22)
2. Recognition of God's control over creation and history (Acts 4:23-28)
3. Request for boldness to speak about Jesus (Acts 4:29-31)

1. As you look around at what is happening in the world today, what gives you the most fear? How have you been responding to that fear?
2. We all listen to a lot of "voices" every day that shape how we see and think about the world and our lives – news, entertainment, media, friends, etc. God's word should and needs to be the first and foremost voice that we listen to. How are all these voices guiding your thoughts and feelings these days? Is God's Word the prominent voice in your life? Why or why not?
3. How have you personally faced opposition to living or sharing your faith? How did you respond when that happened? If you haven't faced much opposition why do you think that is?
4. How have you seen God work in both the good and the difficult circumstances and experiences of your life? How can remembering these instances give you boldness and courage to face future challenges?
5. Think about the prayers that you pray. What specifically do you pray for the most? How do your prayers compare to the prayers of the believers in the book of Acts?

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