

## **SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION**

*Acts 4:1-31      Jeff Schreve*

*But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20*

**In our lost and dying world, will we speak up or shut up?**

**1. The presentation of the gospel is always hard on sin.**

*"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified." Acts 2:36*

*"But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses." Acts 3:14-15*

*"... if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. "He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER** stone." Acts 4:9-11*

**A. The realization and conviction of sin prepares the heart.**

*Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37*

**B. Repentance is a necessary part of salvation.**

*... unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:3, 5*

*"There can be no true faith in Christ unless there is first repentance from sin. The conviction of sin precedes conversion to Christ."  
Warren Wiersbe*

**2. The presentation of the gospel will always get a reaction.**

*"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."  
Acts 4:12*

A. The gospel makes it clear that Jesus is the only Savior.

B. The gospel is good news for repentant sinners.

*But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. Acts 4:5*

C. The gospel is upsetting news for unrepentant sinners.

*... being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. Acts 4:2-3*

\* The unrepentant will seek to silence you or stop you.

### **3. The presentation of the gospel needs Spirit-filled boldness.**

*Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. Acts 4:13*

A. We can submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit.

*"But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak. For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you." Matthew 10:19-20*

B. We can make the decision to stand up for Jesus.

C. We can pray for boldness and power.

*"And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."*

*And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:29-31*

**Now is the time to take a stand, regardless of the consequences.**