

## Threatened Together

**Read:** Acts 4:1-22

**Main Idea:** When faced with adversity, the unity and boldness of believers can transform challenges into opportunities for witnessing to the power of Jesus Christ.

**Key Verses:** “But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’” (Acts 4:19-20, ESV)

### Key Principles:

- Opposition to the gospel often arises from those who feel threatened by its message of resurrection and new life in Christ.
- The Holy Spirit empowers ordinary believers to proclaim Christ boldly, turning cowards into fearless witnesses before powerful authorities.
- True faith in Jesus leads to undeniable transformations that confound critics and draw others to belief despite persecution.
- Salvation is exclusively through Jesus, the cornerstone, emphasizing that no other name or power can save humanity from sin.
- Believers must prioritize obedience to God over human commands, even when facing threats, as this reflects unwavering commitment to the gospel.
- Unity among Christians in the face of trials glorifies God and advances His mission, just as the early church's boldness led to growth in the midst of opposition.

### Discussion:

1. How does this passage illustrate that sharing the gospel can provoke annoyance or hostility from those in power? Share a time when your faith encountered resistance.
2. In what ways does the growth of believers in show that opposition can actually fuel the spread of the gospel? How have you seen God use challenges to bring transformation?
3. How does Peter's response reveal the importance of clearly proclaiming Jesus as the source of salvation? How can we prepare to answer questions about our faith?
4. How did the leaders recognize the apostles' connection to Jesus, and what does this teach us about living in a way that points others to Christ amid evaluation?
5. Why is it significant that the healed man stood as undeniable evidence against the leaders' conspiracy? Discuss how God's work in our lives can silence opposition.
6. How does the apostles' refusal to stop speaking motivate us to remain steadfast? Share how trusting God's promises has helped you obey Him in difficult situations.

### Prayer:

- Pray for boldness to proclaim Jesus and for unity among believers facing adversity.
- Pray for:
  - That persecuted believers would transform challenges into gospel opportunities.
  - Wisdom to respond to questions about faith with Spirit-empowered clarity.
  - Steadfast obedience, trusting God's promises over human threats.

**Threatened Together**  
Acts 4:1-22

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| <b>I.</b>   | <b>You will be <u>persecuted</u> for your faith.</b>       | <b>4:1-4</b>   |
| 1.          | Some will be <u>annoyed</u> by your <u>teaching</u> .      | 4:1-3          |
| 2.          | Some will be <u>transformed</u> by your <u>testimony</u> . | 4:4            |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>You will be <u>questioned</u> for your faith.</b>       | <b>4:5-12</b>  |
| 1.          | They want to know <u>what</u> you <u>believe</u> .         | 4:5-7          |
| 2.          | They need to know <u>whom</u> you <u>follow</u> .          | 4:8-12         |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>You will be <u>evaluated</u> for your faith.</b>        | <b>4:13-17</b> |
| 1.          | The world will <u>see</u> <u>Christ</u> in you.            | 4:13           |
| 2.          | The world will <u>conspire</u> <u>against</u> you.         | 4:14-17        |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>You must be <u>steadfast</u> in your faith.</b>         | <b>4:18-22</b> |
| 1.          | <u>Follow</u> the Lord's <u>commands</u> .                 | 4:18-20        |
| 2.          | <u>Trust</u> the Lord's <u>promises</u> .                  | 4:21-22        |

NEXT WEEK:  
**Praying Together**  
Acts 4:23-31