

MESSAGE APPLICATION GUIDE

Pastor Jeff Bucknam

Acts 4:1-22

1. In what ways have you experienced opposition to your faith in your life? How did you react when it happened? Why did you react that way?

2. Theologian A.B. Bruce once said, "Hatred is very hard to bear, and the desire to escape it is one main cause of unfaithfulness and unfruitfulness. Good men shape their conduct so as to keep out of trouble, and through excess of cowardly prudence degenerate into spiritual nonentities." What is he trying to get across? Do you agree or disagree and why?

3. Why are we surprised when opposition to our faith or values comes our way as Christians in this life? Why weren't Peter and John surprised when it came their way?

4. Recount the life of Peter. How did he go from being a coward denying Christ three times to the guy who is standing in front of the Jewish rulers speaking the way he does in Acts 4:1-22? What contributed to his boldness? How should the same things contribute to our boldness before opposition?

5. Do you believe Jesus is the only way to know God? If so, how do you reconcile that knowledge with the fact that so many people die every day without knowing the name of Jesus Christ? If not, how do you reconcile your belief with what Peter says in Acts 4:12?

6. Peter and John choose not to obey the religious leaders who had legal authority over them when they commanded them not to preach in the name of Jesus any longer. Were they right to do so? When is it right for Christians to disobey governing authorities and for what reasons? Are there other places in Scripture you can think of where faithful believers disobeyed their governing authorities?

7. How does the knowledge that you will be resurrected change the way you live now? How should it change the way you live in regards to your view of money, or sharing your faith, or standing up for righteousness, or doing hard things in Jesus' name?
