



WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE PROFESSING

– ACTS 4:1-11

GETTING STARTED

Sometimes when you watch a movie, after a big speech or climatic event the screen fades to black and you aren't told what happens next. Well the book of Acts tells us what happens next. After Peter preaches this amazing sermon in the middle of the Temple after healing a man who was born paralyzed, we find out that not everyone was impressed. Peter's boldness had caught the attention of the Jewish leaders and they responded by throwing him into jail for preaching about Jesus. While we don't always face this kind of backlash, we should expect that when we share the gospel of Jesus it will bring results, both positive and sometimes negative. We should expect that people will resist the message, but we should also expect that the Holy Spirit is at work and the message will be received.

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 4:1-11

4 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many



of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. Who was opposing Peter's message? What do you know about these groups? (Look at Acts 23:7 & John 18:12-14) Why were they so upset at Peter's message?
2. In response to the objections of the council Peter quotes from Ps 118:22, what is he trying to tell them about Jesus and their response to him? How does the context of Psalm 118 inform us of how Peter is reading this passage?

[Extra verses for studying this passage: John 15:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 18:9-11; 1 Thess 2:13; Rom 8:9-11]

APPLY THE TEXT

3. Does the fear of opposition keep you from sharing your faith with others? How should we respond to that fear?
4. Peter displays gospel boldness in this passage, how we express this kind of boldness in our lives? How do we make sure we aren't just being obnoxious?

SHARE & PRAY



1. As we study the book of Acts, think carefully about 1 or 2 people that you would like to actively share the gospel with. Share them with your life group and hold one another accountable in prayer and support.
2. In light of Acts 4:1-11, pray that God would give us boldness in the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel of Jesus to those around us, not fearing any opposition but convinced that the Word of God is living and active for us today.

