

Unstoppable

Doing What We Should Do While God Does What Only He Can Do

“Refusing to Be Silent”

Acts 4:1-37

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / August 21, 2016

Notice in **Acts 4:1-37** that Christians have always faced conflict centered around the person and work of Jesus Christ. Let’s look at three reasons why that’s always been the case.

I. There’s Always Been Conflict Surrounding Jesus Because of What the World Will and Will Not Do

A. They Will Not Accept the Truth Claims of Jesus

Acts 3:26 – 4:2 ^{3:26}“To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities. ^{4:1}Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, ²being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”

B. They Cannot Just Say, ‘Whatever’

Acts 4:3 “And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody...”

C. They Cannot Deny the Evidence of Changed Lives But Cannot Accept it as Good or Allow it to Spread

v. 14 “And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.”

v. 16 “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.”

II. There’s Always Been Conflict Surrounding Jesus Because of Who Jesus Will and Will Not Be

Acts 4:10-12 ¹⁰“let it be known to you all, 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 stands here before you whole. ¹¹This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ ¹²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

These verses talk in a way that sets the world off because it sounds so exclusive and intolerant, but Jesus isn’t one of many ways to be right with God. Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man.

If you believe in Jesus at all, based on what He says in the Bible, then you have to believe He’s the only way. If you don’t believe He’s the only way then you really don’t believe in Jesus at all. You’re just making up a Jesus who never existed.

III. There’s Always Been Conflict Surrounding Jesus Because of What Christians Can and Cannot Do When They Really Get Fired Up about Him

A. They Wouldn’t Stop Speaking with Boldness

Acts 4:20 “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

B. They Wouldn't Yield Their Conscience to any Authority as Higher than God's

Acts 4:19 “But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.’”

C. They Didn't Let a Lack of Education Become an Excuse for Being Silent

Acts 4:13 “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled...”

IV. So What Keeps Christians Going Like This – Even in the Face of Resistance?

A. Real Time with Jesus

Acts 4:13 “... they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

B. A Firm Grasp of Scripture that Trusts in the Sovereignty of God

Acts 4:24-26 ²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ.’”

C. A Solid Grasp of the Sovereignty of God in the Face of Evil and Suffering

Acts 4:27-28 ²⁷ For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”

V. What Happens When Christians Start Living This Way?

A. You'll See Lost People Come to Christ!

Acts 4:4 “However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.”

B. You'll Be Filled with the Spirit and Focused on the Main Thing

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

The work of the Holy Spirit is to make Jesus Christ beautiful to you to the point that you're willing to risk reputation and the things of this world to speak about Him to others.

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Holy Spirit has always been a spotlight ministry that throws light on Jesus and empowers you to boldly speak about Him!

C. You’ll Live Much Looser to the Things of This World

Acts 4:32 “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.”

These verses have two things woven together- boldness for Jesus and radical generosity!

D. You’ll Experience Great Power in the Midst of Your Weakness

Acts 4:33 “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...”

E. You’ll Experience Great Grace in the Midst of Your Sorrows

Acts 4:33 “... and great grace was upon them all.”