

FAITH THAT WON'T FLINCH

Acts 4:1-12

- Opposition provides **OPPORTUNITY** for the gospel to spread. 4:1-4

- Boldness is born of Spirit-given **CONFIDENCE** in the Person of Jesus. 4:5-12
 - Jesus is **HISTORICAL**. 4:10-11

 - Jesus **DIED** and **ROSE** again. 4:10-11

 - Jesus is the **ONLY** Savior. 4:12

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read Acts 4:1-4. How have you experienced persecution or opposition for Jesus? What are some sources of opposition or potential opposition in your life? What are some reasons we either do or do not experience opposition for Jesus' name? (optionally see 2 Tim 3:12, John 15:20).
2. Read 4:5-7. How do you think this setting might have been seen as intimidating? What situations in your life can be intimidating?
3. Verse 8 says Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit." What role does the Spirit play in Peter's boldness? What does it look like for us to depend on the Spirit rather than simply trying to manufacture courage? (See Ephesians 5:18; Luke 12:11-12)
4. There's an emphasis in this passage on the name of Jesus (see 3:6, 3:16, 4:10, 4:12). What is the significance of the name of Jesus? How can you point to Jesus' name more in your life?
5. Read 4:7-12. How do we see Peter's confidence in Jesus in this passage? If we feel like we're not bold for Jesus, what might this tell us about our confidence in Jesus?
6. Read 4:10-11. What contrast is Peter drawing between humanity's verdict on Jesus and God's verdict on Jesus? Why should the resurrection strengthen our confidence in Him?
7. In your life, what would it look like to bolster your confidence in Jesus and the gospel? What unanswered questions do you have? What pulls your confidence down?
8. Read 4:12. How is this message offensive to our world today? How can we boldly proclaim this truth with gentleness and respect (see 1 Peter 3:14-16)?
9. In what area of your life (people or situations) might God be calling you to be bolder for Jesus?

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now... Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle

