

UnRestrained

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❖ Intro

- **We get a great look at the dialogue b/w the apostles and the Jewish Leaders..**
 - We learn how the apostles handled being questioned...
 - How they handled persecution
- **We also see how religious leaders can make bad mistakes...**
 - Just because they love their power...
 - The fear of losing control causes them to deny obvious truths..
- **We also see the boldness of the Christians...**
 - And their dependence on God for that strength and boldness
- **It is amazing to see their view on the Sovereign nature of God**
 - And I think you begin to see why they are able to do so many wonderful things for God
 - They see that God is with them...
 - They know He holds their future and the future of all mankind within His power
- **They are able to say as Paul did in Romans:**
 - **Romans 8:31-32** *"³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"*

❖ Recap

- **Verses 1-12 tell the account of the apostles and the Leaders in Israel**
 - They became greatly annoyed
 - Because the apostles were teaching... teaching in the name of Jesus, and about Resurrection
 - So they arrest Peter and John

- **Peter and John do not fight the arrest, the persecution**
 - You see the Sovereign hand of God within this miracle
 - Peter and John will now have an audience with all the main leaders in Judaism
 - And they will get the chance to share the gospel once again with these leaders
- **The leaders that rejected the chief cornerstone**
 - And Peter and John will tell them that Salvation comes from one place
 - 4:12 “And salvation is in no one else, for there is no other name, under heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved.
 - **Peter makes sure they get the point...**
 - In no one else.... No other name... under heaven... given among men
 - **So Peter makes sure the leaders and the world knows that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the:**
 - Only Source of Salvation for a sinful and rebellious world...
- **Today’s Outline:**
 - 1) Speechless
 - 2) Undeniable
 - 3) Unrestrained
 - 4) Exaltation
 - 5) Predestined
 - 6) Filled

❖ **Speechless**

- ¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.
- **Bold Uneducated Common Men**
 - So Peter and John’s background was obviously noticeable
 - These guys were fishermen... that was their background...
 - They had no formal education we know of...
 - And this was obvious to the leaders... they could tell that Peter and John were not trained
 - In the religious ways of the chief priests and other leaders...
 - And by the way they spoke they could tell that their speech was not eloquent
 - But!
- **The Leaders are Astonished**
 - **The leaders were amazed with the boldness of what Peter and John had to say...**
 - Apparently they spoke with confidence, and with great knowledge...
 - And since the leaders could tell they were not trained in their schools...
 - **It amazed them that they knew what they knew... And that they spoke it so boldly...**
 - Although they may have been speaking in a somewhat improper way...
 - Their words and delivery astonished the leaders
- **Why were Peter and John so Impressive... so Bold... So filled with Knowledge?**
 - ...And they recognized that they had been with Jesus
 - **And there is our answer... They had been with Jesus**
 - They spent three years learning from the son of God...
 - The Messiah who had come down from heaven to be a man...
 - This same Jesus is spoken of in Luke

- Luke 2:46-47 ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

➤ **We need to be with Jesus!**

- What a lesson this is for us today...
 - It does not matter your background, how you grew up, your education level
 - If you want to be able to share God with others...
- **Spend time with Jesus...**
 - He should be more important than the food we eat and what we drink
 - Spending time alone with Jesus by reading His Word
 - And relying on Him in Prayer
 - And then listening to Him speaking through the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds
- **We should be desperate to spend time with Jesus**
- **We are not because Satan has given us a thousand other things to distract us from what is good**
 - He hold the fruit of entertainment or friendship or idleness or whatever in front of us
 - And he tells us it is better than spending time with Jesus...
 - But it is not...
- **If you want to survive as a believer...**
 - If you want to succeed in being a light to those around you...
 - You must spend time with Jesus...
- **I Pray more for us to understand and put into practice this principle than any others...**
 - Spend time with Jesus...
 - If we are not, we are running on fumes...
 - We are unfaithful to our Savior who bought us...
 - We are leaving our first love...
- **The church in Ephesus left their first love...**
 - And from what we can understand from the text, it was their love and devotion to Jesus
 - And Jesus wrote them a letter... and He had some very pointed things to tell them...
 - Revelation 2:4-5 ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

➤ **The Proof Left them Speechless**

- ...seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition
- **Nothing to say because they saw the healed man...**
 - The Miracle of God had shut the mouth of the opposition
 - Along with the words of Peter and John...
 - The council was left speechless...
- **Speechless because God's work was obvious...**
- **Don't we want to see those opposed to God left Speechless?**
 - To come to a point where they have nothing to say in opposition to Jesus...
 - Not for the sake of being right, rather that they too may know the God we know
 - The merciful and kind God of heaven and earth who grants forgiveness abundantly...
- **Then let us spend time with Jesus...**
 - And then be bold enough to pray for God to move
 - And for us to have the boldness of Peter and John...
- **Doubters will then be left with Undeniable proof!**

❖ UnDeniable

- ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶ saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
- **They Send the apostles out...**
 - And they spend some time talking among themselves...
 - And they really do not know what they need to do...
 - So they figure the best way to handle this... is to threaten them... to warn them
 - To speak no more in the name of Jesus...
- **So that is what they did...**
 - They called them in and said do not speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus...
- **Miracles are often not enough to convince certain people**
 - Even when the miracle is explained by Faithful men
 - Self Preservation get’s in the way of a person’s repentance
 - So, do not fret when you know God has given undeniable proof to those you seek to reach
 - We have to be faithful, and let God handle the rest...
- **What we see is Hardheartedness**
 - These leaders were so hard hearted that the obvious was not obvious even though it was obvious
 - Look at what they say: “**For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.**”
- **It is Undeniable:**
 - We can not deny it... but I guess we can try to stop it...
 - How crazy is this... They know God has done this... they know it was a miracle
 - There was a power they had never seen...
- **A Power Hungry Rejection**
 - **Their rejection was fueled by a desire to stay in power...**
 - Power is greater than riches...
 - And they did not want to lose the power over their nation, or over their own lives...
 - **When you give in to Jesus, you lose all your power and submit yourself to His will, His Way**
- **Today:**
 - **God has dealt many times within your hearts...**
 - He has made your sins very obvious to you... and you know you are wrong before God
 - But your pride or unbelief hold you back
 - God calls you to repent, yet you stay seated, unwilling to look sinful before others...
 - Not wanting to look weak and in need...
 - So you sit with pride, unwilling to give your life to God
 - **And your heart becomes hard just like these leaders...**
 - You are no better off than they are...
 - You have heard the testimony of the apostles...
 - And those that have carried on their story...
 - You have felt the pull of the Holy Spirit within your heart
 - Yet you still hold back...
 - **The Longer you wait...**
 - The harder your heart gets... the less likely you are to hear God’s call of repentance
 - The less likely you are to have your sins forgiven
 - And the less likely you are to enter the gates of heaven

- Rather your more likely destination is the pit of Hell...
 - ◆ Where you will exist eternally in torment and judgment because you rejected a free offer of grace!

➤ **Please do not Reject God because of a hard heart...**

- Because you have denied the undeniable...

➤ **Unrestrain yourself...**

- Just like the apostles did not allow themselves to be restrained by the thoughts of other men

❖ **UnRestrained**

- ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

➤ **UnAfraid of Man**

- The Leaders warned Peter and John...
- But it did not stop them at all... They were unafraid of man
 - They heard Jesus say:
 - **Matt 10:28 “²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”**
- **So they said:**
 - **“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”**

➤ **They Must Speak of what they have seen and heard**

- **The disciples had been with Jesus.**
 - They had seen Him glorified on the mount and heard the voice of God
 - They saw Him crucified and dead... they saw Him buried
 - Then they saw Him risen and walking with them...
- **They had to tell others:**
 - That Jesus had risen and is offering salvation to all who repent and believe in His name
- **And they told the truth about where the power for this man’s healing came from...**
 - It came from that same Jesus you rejected and denied and had crucified...
 - ◆ Well... He aint dead... He is alive!

➤ **Are we so Filled with God that we can not help but to speak of Him?**

- What does that look like.
- When are we not like that?
- How do we get filled? Prayer, Meditation, Bible Reading and Memorizing

➤ **Is our Problem that are Faith is Paper thin...?**

- And we have not seen or heard anything we see as Supernatural
- Are we that far removed from the moving of the Spirit.
- We need to ask ourselves some serious questions...
- **Why don’t we open up our mouths and speak**
 - Are we afraid?
 - Or do we simply have nothing to say...
 - And if the later is the case, then we have an unbelieving heart...

➤ **Notice this:**

- These opponents to the gospel did not deny the miracle...
- They just did not want to lose their stronghold on religious leadership...

- **Historically this should increase our faith...**
 - Those that most hate the Christians do not deny the power...
 - This is proof of a powerful God
 - This is proof that the disciples had seen a resurrected Jesus Christ.
- **This should cause us to cling ever more tightly to the word of God**
 - And do our best to give it to others
- **The Leaders let them go because they were afraid of man**
 - Unlike the apostles who could care less what other men thought...
 - **They only cared what God said... The leaders were different... they were consistent**
 - ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.
 - The people were believing so they were afraid to do anything harsh
 - **In John After Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead this happened**
 - John 12:42-43 ⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.
 - We see a denial... A belief that is not enough to gain them salvation
- **It is the same for us today... You either confess Jesus before men, or you deny Him**
 - Matt 10:32-33 “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.
- **Let us not deny, but rather, let the works of Jesus lead us to Exaltation of His name...**

❖ Exaltation

- ²³ When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “ ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ —
- **Their Report brought Praise and Prayer**
 - They Exalted God in Prayer
- **What an Amazing intro of Prayer: They addressed God as they knew Him to be**
 - Sovereign Lord
 - Creator
 - Spoke through David
- **A Prophecy from Psalm 2 concerning the Messiah**
 - **Why did the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed...**
 - **So they take Psalm 2 to refer to what happened to Jesus...**
 - And they are right...
 - When David wrote it, He likely did not understand the ramifications of His writing
 - But David wrote specific things about the Messiah
 - **And Here we see how God uses Humans... Men that are not perfect to speak His Word...**
 - God can speak through whomever He wants...
 - **This prophecy could also be in regards to some future gathering against Jesus...**
 - Often prophecy covers more than one event...
- **Psalm 2 shows how silly it is to rise up against God...**

- The apostles pray the first few verses... Asking the question as to why people come against God
 - These rulers and Kings are out of their mind to come against the Lord's anointed
- You see God's Response in the rest of Psalm 2... (It is a classic God response)
 - Psalm 2:4-5 "He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- **He goes on to tell them:**
 - Psalm 2:10-12 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.

➤ **Don't be like this:**

- **Do not set yourself up against God in any way**
 - We like to do this with our own little kingdoms... We may not be world leaders
- **But we like to think we rule ourselves...**
 - Therefore we think we can do what we want to with out:
 - Time, Energy, Talents, Money, Possessions, Thoughts, Actions...
- **When we do, we are no better than these futile Kings and leaders in Psalm 2**

❖ **Predestined**

- ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

➤ **The Prayer Continues**

- In vs 27 we see specifically how Psalm 2 was fulfilled
- We see the fathering together of both Herod and Pilate, along with Gentiles and Israel
- And they are gathered together as kings, and rulers
- Against the Messiah...

➤ **Yet God's Sovereignty is still on display...**

- They addressed Him as Sovereign Lord...
- Here we see that the whole of what happened was predetermined by God...
 - to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.
- **He sent Jesus here to die for us...**
 - After Herod told Jesus to speak because He had the authority over His Life
 - Jesus says... Nope... I lay it down on my own, and I can raise it back up...

➤ **The Men were responsible**

- These guys were not forced by God to react this way...
- They were very responsible for their sins...
- But however God does it, He sent Jesus in such a way as to know their response...
- He knew how they would respond...
- And He planned it so they would crucify Jesus, and He would be a sacrifice for man's sin
- **Yet, these men's sinful actions were clearly their own...**
 - Their lust for power and fame caused them to miss out on the Messiah...

➤ **They pray for Boldness**

- In the face of such warnings and being arrested...
- The apostles ask God to give them boldness...
 - Boldness to continue to speak

- They want to be ready in the face of opposition
- **For Us:**
 - **We must also pray for boldness**
 - It is not a natural tendency for us to be Bold in the face of persecution
 - We want to shrink back and say nothing...
 - We want to be left alone
 - We are afraid of how people will respond
 - **If we are ever to be a faithful witness**
 - We must pray for boldness....
 - It was common among the apostles to pray for this...
 - Because they knew they could not speak without the Holy Spirit's help
- **They Ask for God to continue doing signs, wonders and miracles...**
 - God used the miracle to display His glory and give the apostles an audience for preaching
 - And we will see that God continues to act for His name throughout Acts
 - And History for that matter
- **We should pray the same thing**
 - Pray that God moves in our midst, our community
 - That He will make it undeniable to every one around that He is God and there is no other
 - That He will Heal and make people amazed at His works...
 - Let's stop settling for nothing, for the status quo... Lets ask God to move...
- **But to move through the name of His Son Jesus Christ...**
 - In the same way that Peter told the man to walk in the name of Jesus...
 - We see their prayer is that God would work through the name of His Holy Servant Jesus Christ
 - We must know:
 - There is no power outside the name of Jesus
 - There is no salvation outside the name of Jesus...
- **We then see God's response to their prayer of Faith**

❖ Filled

- ³¹ **And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.**
- **God Moves in their Midst**
 - He gives them a notice that He is there with them.
- **They prayed for boldness, and signs and wonders...**
 - And God gave that to them
- **They were filled with the Holy Spirit**
 - Once again we see they are filled...
 - This comes after their initial filling or being baptized in the Spirit...
- **This filling obviously came through their devotion to Prayer and the Word and obedience**
 - They were praying the word of God
 - And as they prayed and had been in the word of God
 - And as they were obedient to go and tell
 - The Holy Spirit filled them again and again...
- **We can have this filling today...**
 - **You already have the Spirit living within you if you have repented and believed**
 - Been born again.
 - **But have you quenched the Holy Spirit through your sins**
 - Have you not been in the Word and in Prayer so that the Spirit will fill you

- **God did not make us so we could do things on our own**
 - He made us to be wholly reliable on Him for all things
 - We can not do anything on our own... Rather we need the moving and filling and leading
 - ◆ Of the Holy Spirit

➤ **Do you understand this?**

- Do you pray for this?
- Do you seek this?
- If not then you must begin... You must begin to take the Church of God seriously...
- The church is the bride of Christ, and you are a part of it
- To grow it and to strengthen it and support it...
- Pray for God to fill you even today!
- We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit...
 - Ephesians 5:18-19 ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

❖ **Invitation**

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