

Forged in the Presence: The Secret of Sacrificial Courage

Acts 4:1-3, 8-20

What would Peter and John say if we asked them what gave them the courage to do what was right in God's eyes in Acts 4?

The Sadducees were furious with Peter and John. By _____ and proclaiming the _____ of Jesus, the Apostles were challenging both the _____ and the _____ of the Sadducees. The Sadducees had policing authority, and these 2 offenses led them to incarcerate Peter and John and hold them over for trial the next day. These are the 2 main reasons people recoil against our message and our way of life and why, then, it takes courage to be a witness.

People get upset at our message and for us standing for what is right in God's eyes because it threatens their _____ system. People like to think they _____ the _____ okay—better than most. And they like to believe and be told they can pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. The gospel, however, says we are helplessly _____ and in need of a _____.

People want to be their own _____ and _____ to no one; to be captain of their own soul. The Bible warns that, without God's guidance, we fulfill Prov. 14:12 – “There is a way that _____ to a man, but its end is the way of _____.”

The Scripture is clear. Peter and John's kind of courage is the byproduct of being _____ with _____. Time spent _____ brought about the filling of the Spirit. Sacrificial courage is the result of _____.

At some point, you and I are going to face costly _____ regarding our faith. God will _____ you regarding the right thing to do or say, but you'll be tempted to _____ and _____. Do you want to have the courage to say, “Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to Him?” Then, get in the _____ of Jesus through Bible study, _____, experiencing His presence in _____ and _____ for Him. The courage you need only comes from proximity to _____.