

Evidence

Relevant Bible Verses: Acts 4:1-22 ; Mark 16:20 ; 2 Corinthians 4:7 ; Exodus 33:14-16

Message Notes:

- Peter and John healed a lame man at the temple in Acts 4. They were asked ‘By what power or name do you do this?’ Filled with the Holy Spirit, they proclaimed Jesus.
- When walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, we don’t need to create situations or scenarios to try and force God to move. Opportunities will come your way, as God *creates* opportunities.
- The man was at the temple, Peter and John came across him, and an opportunity was created, as well as serving as a platform to show the power and the message of God.
- The religious leaders of the day were greatly disturbed by this. When anyone is greatly disturbed by something, they react against whatever is causing it. In this case, the religious leaders couldn’t deny the sign of the lame man being healed, but they knew they had to end it because it interfered with their worldview.
- People of the world don’t react to us because of the lack of evidence shown to them. However, this is beginning to change. Evidence is growing.
- The religious leaders arrested Peter and John to end the acts, the ‘evidence’, of the power of the Holy Spirit, and brought them before a large group of religious leaders. A man being instantly healed, the message of rescue from death being spoken, caused the religious leaders to decide they needed to be eradicated.
- They didn’t receive or recognize Jesus, his theology, or his followers, yet *they could not deny the evidence*.
- We don’t have all the answers, restricted as we are by our human nature. We may not agree with all the theology of others, but we cannot deny the evidence of God’s presence when it occurs. We *cannot* be so arrogant as to believe that the way God speaks to us and the way that we do things is *the only way*.
- People judge others by their ‘fruit’; the evidence of God in their lives. We cannot live with one foot in the world, one in the Church. The more we walk in the Spirit of God, the more evidence there will be, and the more the world will see it. They may not like it, and they may ignore it, but they will see it.
- There are two reactions from the world. They may not understand it, and therefore choose to be blind to it as it messes with or interferes with the worldview they’ve created. The second reaction is, if they can’t ignore it or pretend it didn’t happen, they *attack* or question the source. They will see that you’re different, that your life is different than theirs, and so they push you away.

- When Jesus cast out demons, the religious leaders concluded it was the devil casting out demons. With Peter and John, they couldn't ignore the signs, couldn't use *blindness* to deny it, so they attacked. The disciples were baffled at the reaction. We need to remember how we too reacted before we knew God.
- Any power we have is not our own but is from God. We are just vessels, but we carry the greatest message the world has ever heard. Even Spirit-filled disciples can be baffled at the blindness or attacks of the world. However, we must move beyond the reactions of the world and still proclaim God.
- In walking in the fullness of God and the Holy Spirit, *everything* is an opportunity to proclaim God to the world.
- The presence of God is needed to distinguish us from the rest of the world. People will know God is *in* us and *with* us because of the fruit that emerges naturally when we walk in the fullness of the Spirit. We cannot help but proclaim the glory of God, it will be written on you. If you are not seeing this in your life, it's coming. People are starting to truly get it and are walking with Christ.
- We are not just another vender in the marketplace. We are Temples of the Holy Spirit. It has nothing to do with you, being no more than a vessel of clay, and everything to do with God within us.
- It is not what *we* have to offer. The world will see evidence and be unable to deny it, unable to turn a blind eye. They may attack it, but they cannot deny the workings of God.