

Facing Opposition

Acts 4:1-22



Acts 4:1-4

1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Acts 4:5-7

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”

Acts 4:8-10

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you 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 is standing before you well.”

Acts 4:11-12

11 “This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:13-14

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.

Acts 4:15-17

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.”

Acts 4:18-20

18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 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.”

Acts 4:21-22

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.

How ought we face opposition as Jesus' witnessing community?

1. The gospel may be offensive, but nothing else should be.

(2 Timothy 2:1-4)

How ought we face opposition as Jesus' witnessing community?

2. Opposition is not an indication that you are on the wrong track. It may reveal that you are right where God wants you.

(2 Timothy 3:10-12)

WHY WE EXPERIENCE OPPOSITION

→ Remember: we have an Enemy that despises and resists the advance of God's kingdom.

(1 Peter 5:8-10)

WHY WE EXPERIENCE OPPOSITION

→ Remember: opposition can often prove useful to God and his purposes. It is through our weakness that God shines brightest.

(2 Corinthians 4:7-10)

How ought we face opposition as Jesus' witnessing community?

3. Prepare for the push and pull of divided loyalties and settle it in your heart to obey God above men.

(1 Peter 3:14-15)

How ought we face opposition as Jesus' witnessing community?

4. Pray with power.

(Acts 4:23-31)

“Set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts.
Always be prepared to give an answer...
for the hope that you have.” (1 Pet. 3:15)

“Choose this day whom you will serve...
But as for me and my house, we will serve
the Lord.” (Josh. 24:15)