And They Placed Them At The Center

Tony Mauck · Acts 4:1–20

INTRODUCTION

- The story of Jesus has begun to spread in the city of Jerusalem and beyond, like wildfire.
- These unlearned Galilean fishermen, Peter and John, … are now brought into the presence of the religious elite to answer for the stir that they have created.
- There is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

1 The Grave Danger of an Overinflated View of Self

Luke 18:9; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5–6

- These guys thought pretty highly of themselves.
- These men, though in the center of this meeting, now find themselves on the religious periphery. And they did not like it.
- God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble, James chapter 4 and verse 6.
- The most knowledgeable person in the world is the one who most consistently applies the message of truth in his or her life.
- Pride is more than just a conceit that says, Everybody look at me. It's about everything revolving around me.
- That kind of pride, an overinflated view of self, is destructive.

2 The Great Pitfall of Religious Deception

John 8:31–32

- They think they're right. But they're either missing important information in that conclusion or they're ignoring some of the information.
- They were not ignorant of the text. They knew their Bibles. They had come to incorrect conclusions about the Messiah.
- We always need to ask, do I have all the facts? Am I being honest with the text?
- Am I allowing preconceived notions and traditions to keep me from accepting what the text is actually saying?
- God's favor in the past does not necessarily guarantee his favor in the present.
- Just because we found ourselves in a right relationship with God in the past does not guarantee that it is so in the present.

3 The Short-Lived Tenure of Our Efforts Here

Psalm 37:25; 1 Corinthians 4:1–2; Acts 13:36

- These men who were so full of themselves and saw themselves as the most devout people of God … Where are they now?

- Lord, make me to know my end and how transient I am.
- It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful.
- Our business is simply to pass Jesus' story along to the next generation so that they can carry the torch for him.
- It's a torch for him and not for us.
- It's not about making a name for ourselves, but extolling and exalting the name of Jesus.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's make sure in our hearts that he's at the center and not ourselves. Because when we place ourselves at the center, that's when things start to go awry spiritually.

MY NOTES