



Speaking Boldly in a Hostile World

Brent Moody · Acts 4:7–22 · Series: **The Way Forward**

INTRODUCTION

- The early days of the Ecclesia had a lot of external resistance. It was extremely fierce.
- What do we do when the world doesn't want to hear what we have to say? What do we do when the world is clearly obstinate to the message of Jesus?
- I think the simple answer is that we have to keep talking. We keep speaking. That's what the apostles are showing. We don't stop.

1 Made the Message About Jesus, Not Themselves

Acts 3:12–13; Acts 4:12; Acts 9:20

- The first thing that we have to recognize about what these early disciples, and particularly the apostles, were doing, is that they made the message very clearly about Jesus and not about themselves.
- It's about him. It's about what God did through him, it's about what he did, it's about his resurrection and the salvation that comes through him. It's not about the power of the messenger.
- Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this? Or why do you stare at us as though by our power or piety we have made him walk?
- There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
- Going to a church that has the right name on the sign will not save anyone.
- These uneducated common men had the ability to speak Jesus. To tell people about the gospel. You don't have to be a professional speaker.

2 Resistance Is Not a Sign Something Is Wrong

Acts 5:17; Acts 7:51–54

- What we need to see from this text, and we're looking at these early accounts of resistance, is that is not a sign that something is wrong. It's not a sign that we need to stop speaking.
- But the problem was not that the message was bad, or even the tone in which they give that message. It's that the people just didn't want to hear it.
- People resist truth for emotional reasons. That is extremely clear within the Acts account.
- The high priest rose up, and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy.
- The truth convicts, and it's hard to hear sometimes. And that can go one of two directions.
- Obedience often meant pressure and difficulty. Silence was often not wisdom. It was fear.

3 Speaking Boldly Is Not Speaking Arrogantly

Acts 5:41; Acts 4:4; Acts 5:33–39

- It's easy to begin reacting with extreme sarcasm and disdain and condescension. And I want you to understand that is not the boldness that's being talked about in the book of Acts.
- Speaking boldly is not about speaking arrogantly. And what we see throughout this entire encounter is the humility of these men.
- They left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.
- If we're speaking Jesus and we're telling people about the gospel, there are people who are listening. And we want them to be hearing the right thing, not arrogance, not ugliness, not condescension.
- Because there are obstacles, doesn't mean people aren't listening. And so we speak boldly and plainly, not stopping, realizing there are people who will hear.
- Boldness is not a license to be hateful and ugly and sarcastic to people.

THE CHALLENGE

You keep speaking the truth to anyone who will listen. Not because it's easy or it's safe or it's popular, but because Jesus is alive and he is Lord, and people need to know the truth.

MY NOTES
