

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 12: As Bold As Lions

- ❖ **Judg. 6:11-12** Gideon is not threshing in the normal place because he's scared to. God's not calling him what he is but what he will be.
 - The Lord did a very similar thing in the N.T. with a guy named Simon: Called him Peter or "Rock", but this was the same guy who would even confess Jesus before a servant girl denying Him three times!
- ❖ **Acts 4** Up until this point the church has existed with no opposition, but now things are going to change forever and the opposition becomes the very arena in which the church exists.
- 1. **In this first occurrence of resistance, we are given some valuable rules of thumb about how we are to act and react when we are resisted for the cause of Christ.**

- **VV. 1-4**

1. The first thing that we can gather from this passage is that we should expect opposition.

Plan for Opposition

1. Plan to be bold – **II Tim. 1:6** – Necessary that we walk with God daily to have the Spirit make us bold.
 - Gideon and Peter both had a yellow streak when came to standing up for God, but when the Spirit came upon them they were bold.
2. Make sure nothing stands in the way of your boldness:
 - What was the first time fear entered the human existence? Garden of Eden after the Fall they were afraid and hid themselves because of their sin.
- ❖ Unconfessed sin damages your desire to witness, your confidence in prayer, your boldness.
- ❖ **Prov. 28:1** = Sin causes us to run --- righteousness causes us to stand strong.
2. The second thing that we can gather concerning opposition is the biblical way to react when under pressure.
 - ❖ **VV. 5-13** – Any lawyer would tell you that this is not the way you testify in court if your looking to save your neck. (didn't deny anything, and didn't claim their civil rights)
 - As witnesses of Christ Jesus, we are not here to save our necks (they already are) we are here to save theirs!!
 - The proper response to opposition to the Gospel is to speak the very Gospel that got us the opposition.
3. The third thing we can learn from this situation about how to act and react when we are resisted for the cause of Christ is **to reject the temptation to compromise our message.**
 - ❖ **VV. 18-21** – Notice: the religious leaders were willing to let them believe anything they wanted; they just didn't want them to act on what they believed.
 - It's a strong temptation today: soften our message in order to keep people in their seats giving them a "kinder and gentler" gospel.
 - The power of the gospel is not in its presentation -- **In the content of the Gospel is where God's power lies.**
 - ❖ **V. 12- 13**-- When they look at us, do they come to the same conclusion?
 - Do they see Jesus in what we say, how we act, in the courage we display when faced with opposition?