

We Will Not Stop Proclaiming #2

Sermon in a Sentence: We must not allow anything to hinder us from fulfilling our primary responsibility of proclaiming Christ to the lost in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Purpose: That the people be filled with the Spirit and commit themselves to faithfully proclaiming the gospel to the lost

Text: Acts 4:20

Introduction:

1. Tell the story of Peter and John's trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin (Ac 4:1-20).
 - a. When commanded to stop preaching in Christ's name...
 - b. They replied, "We cannot stop proclaiming Christ" (v.20).
2. We must do the same today. We must commit ourselves to proclaim Christ at all times and in every circumstance.
3. Today, we will make three firm commitments:

I. WE WILL FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM CHRIST IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION.

- A. As we seek to advance God's kingdom, we can expect the devil to oppose us.
 1. Jesus. "In this world you will have trouble..." (Jn 16:33); "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (Jn 15:20).
 2. The book of Acts is the story of how the church advanced in the face of opposition.
 3. We can expect the same today.
- B. When opposition does arise, we should continue to proclaim the message of the gospel.
 1. Peter and John: "We cannot stop speaking..." (Ac 4:20).
 2. In Lystra Paul was opposed, stoned, and carried outside the city to die. But he returned to the city and continued to proclaim Christ (Ac 14:19-20).
 3. Paul later wrote, "I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1Co 9:16).
 4. We too must be ready to preach the gospel—even in the face of opposition.

II. WE WILL RESOLUTELY PROCLAIM CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF DISTRACTION.

- A. Today, we are tempted to be distracted from preaching Christ.

1. Distracted by false prophets proclaiming false gospels:
 - a. “Prophets” who claim to be brokers of God’s blessing.
 - b. “Gospels” which promise prosperity without repentance.
 - c. When we see these people’s worldly success, we become distracted, and we are tempted to imitate them.
 2. Distracted by internal strife in our churches.
 - a. The early church also faced distractions. Once they argued over the treatment of the widows (Ac 6:1).
 - b. The apostles, however, would not be distracted from prayer and proclamation of the gospel (vv. 2-5)
- B. We, like the apostles, must not allow anything to distract us from our primary responsibility of proclaiming Christ to the lost.

III. WE WILL BOLDLY PROCLAIM CHRIST IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. In our story, Peter proclaimed Christ in the power of the Spirit.
1. When asked, “By what power or what name” he had healed the cripple man, Peter was “filled with the Holy Spirit” and began to proclaim Christ to them (Ac 4:7-10).
 2. Later, after being threatened, he and John returned to the company of believers and were again filled with the Spirit.
 - a. v. 31: “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”
 - c. They understood that their preaching would be ineffective without the power of the Holy Spirit.
- B. We too must be empowered by the Holy Spirit to effectively proclaim the gospel.
1. This empowerment comes when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:4-5).
 2. Jesus promised this power in Acts 1:8: “But you will...”
 3. The disciples first received this power on the Day of Pentecost (Read: Ac 2:1-4).
 4. We must receive this same power today.

Conclusion and Altar Call

1. Come and commit yourself to proclaiming Christ.
2. Come to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

— Denzil R. Miller