

We Will Not Stop Proclaiming #3

Sermon a Sentence: The command of Jesus, the need of people, and the power of the Spirit compels us to keep preaching the gospel to the lost.

Sermon Purpose: That the people be filled with the Spirit and confidently proclaim 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 they were commanded to stop preaching in Jesus' name, they answered, "We cannot stop help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (v.20).
 - b. What caused Peter and John to make this bold statement?
2. The apostles were able to make this bold confession for at least four reasons:

I. BECAUSE THEY REMEMBERED THE COMMAND OF JESUS.

- A. They remembered that Jesus had commanded them to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel..." (Mk 16:15).
 1. First, He set the example by coming into the world.
 2. He told them, I have come to "seek and save..." (Lk 19:10).
 3. He then left them with a "Great Commission" (Jn 20:21).
- B. When we are tempted to stop preaching the gospel, we too must remember the command of Jesus.
 1. We are a "body under orders."
 2. Therefore, we cannot stop proclaiming Christ.

II. BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE ONE GREAT NEED OF ALL PEOPLE.

- A. Jesus taught His disciples that, apart from a saving relationship with Him, all people are eternally and hopelessly lost.
 1. Read: John 3:16-18: "He who believes not is condemned..."
 2. They are "dead in their transgressions and sin" (Ep 2:1).
- B. Jesus further taught them of the eternal destiny of the lost.
 1. They will be cast into hell (Mt 13:41-42; Rev 21:8).
 2. Their only hope of salvation is Christ (Ac 4:12).
- C. When we are tempted to stop preaching the gospel to the lost, we must remind ourselves of their eternal destiny.

III. BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

- A. The gospel has the power to redeem and renew all people.
 - 1. Jesus compared the gospel with a seed that has the power within itself to produce a harvest (Mk 4:26-29).
 - 2. Paul said, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone...” (Ro 1:16).
 - 3. Paul testified how the gospel changed him (1Ti 1:12-15).
- B. Because we believe that the gospel has power to transform people’s lives—we will not stop proclaiming Christ to the lost.

IV. BECAUSE THEY WERE FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. Not only does the Holy Spirit *empower* us to proclaim the gospel (Ac 1:8), He also *compels* us to tell everyone about Christ.
 - 1. The Spirit compelled Peter to preach at Pentecost (Ac 2:14).
 - 2. Again, in our text story, Peter had just been refilled with the Holy Spirit (Ac 4:8), then he testified, “We cannot stop speaking about Christ” (v. 20).
 - 3. The Spirit later compelled Peter to go to the home of Cornelius and preach Christ (Ac 10:19-20; 11:12).
- B. Because we have been filled with the Spirit, we will not stop proclaiming Christ.
 - 1. Jesus promised, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Ac 1:8).
 - 2. You can be filled with the Spirit today. (How?)
 - a. Ask in faith (Lk 11:9, 13)
 - b. Receive by faith (Lk 11:10; Mk 11:24)
 - c. Speak in Faith (Ac 2:4)

Conclusion and Altar Call

- 1. Come now and commit yourself to proclaiming Christ to the lost.
- 2. Come now and be filled with the Spirit.

— Denzil R Miller