**Identified With Jesus**

*Acts 4:5-13*

**Introduction**

1. After healing the lame man, and preaching in Solomon’s porch, Peter and John were taken into custody.
2. Many believed because of what they taught concerning Jesus as the Christ, crucified, and raised from the dead.
3. This greatly disturbed those of the Sanhedrin.
4. After asking by whose authority Peter and John had performed this act, and hearing their answer (in Jesus name), they identified the two apostles as those who had been with Jesus. Why?
   1. Uneducated – they had not received the training from rabbis in Jewish schools.
   2. Untrained – They were ordinary men. Not professionals. (i.e. laymen)
   3. Despite these things, they spoke with confidence, and authority!
5. Is your discipleship so obvious that people identify you as being with Jesus?
6. Is your discipleship noticed by others?

* 1 Peter 4:3-4
  + Peter is writing to a crowd of Gentiles who were once involved in the pagan culture.
  + When they obeyed the Gospel they ceased from sin, and their change was evident.
* Ephesians 5:8-14
  + Like the Gentiles addressed in 1 Peter 4:3-4, everyone who is now a Christian was once darkness.
  + Christians have the responsibility of reproving evil/darkness.
  + This can only be accomplished via the stark contrast between light and dark.
    - 1 John 1:5 – Being light in the world declares that we are with God!
* Matthew 5:13-16
  + Our light should be shining in that we are continually practicing that which is righteous.
  + It should also be shining in that we are not attempting to hide our works, as if being ashamed of them (cf. Ephesians 5:12).

1. Is your confidence in Christ, and not yourself?

* 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
  + When Paul preached, it was obvious that he placed his confidence in Christ.
  + He merely planted (cf. 3:6-7).
  + He wanted them to only view him as a servant and steward (cf. 4:1).
* Philippians 3:7; 4:13
  + All the things Paul was known for in the Hebrew nationality he gave up for Christ. That requires great confidence in Christ.
  + And that he had. He was able to do all things God would require, not because he was confident in himself, on the contrary, he was confident in Christ. (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 – concerning Paul’s thorn in the flesh)
* Psalm 119:97-100
  + Why are all these things so? Because of God’s law!

1. Do you have boldness in Christ?

* *'boldness'* - free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage (Thayer)
* 1 John 5:4-5
  + Faith allows us to overcome. However, there must be an object of faith. Which is Christ!
    - We are promised to overcome as Christ did, if we believe in Him (cf. Romans 6:5).
* Acts 4:29-31
  + The threats had no effect on the disciples because of the boldness they had in Christ.
    - This is exactly what they displayed before 🡪
* Acts 4:18-20
  + Directly after being threatened they declared their allegiance to God, and not man.

**Conclusion**

1. Is it obvious that you are a Christian, to the degree that an outsider would identify you as being with Jesus?
2. Are you noticed, do you have confidence in Christ, do you speak His name boldly?
3. Will you be with Jesus today?

* (cf. Matthew 28:18-20 – we are commanded to teach Christ to others, and obey His commandments. This is not a daunting task, for Christ is with us continually!)