**13 – Courage of Peter and John**

*Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29*

**The Progression**

* Peter and John see, and heal the lame man (**cf. 3:6-10)**.
* This caused the people who knew the man to be amazed. Peter used this as an opportunity to preach Christ **(cf. 3:16).**
  + Through Peter and John’s faith in Christ the lame man was made well.
  + Shows Jesus to be the Son of God – they preached His resurrection (**v. 14-15**).
* The Sanhedrin (priests, captain of the temple, Sadducees) arrested them because of their teaching (**cf. 4:1-5**).
  + They questioned by what authority they had healed the man **(cf. 4:7).** Peter told them it was by Jesus authority **(v. 10**) and that they had rejected Him.
  + They were afraid of this doctrine spreading they decided to threaten them **(cf. 4:17-18).**
  + Peter and John’s response suggested and obstinacy against the threat (**cf. 4:18-20**).
* They gave this report to the other apostles. It did not affect them negatively, but they were strengthened (**cf. 4:23-31**).
* Account of Ananias and Sapphira’s lie and death (**cf. 5:1-11 – READ v. 11**).
  + The miracle performed before, along with the death of the disobedient ones caused an overwhelming devotion in those who were believers.
  + The apostles (Peter and John included but not only them.) performed more miracles and healings (**cf. 5:12** – note: this is accomplished by the same means as before – **4:9-10**).
* The Sanhedrin grew angry again and threw them in prison, but an angel let them out (**cf. 5:17-21**).
  + They found them once again preaching **(v. 25).**
  + They brought them before the council again and reminded them of the command not to teach – then the apostles responded (**cf. 5:26-32**).
* Even after Gamaliel’s advice (**v. 35-39**) they beat the apostles and told them once again not to preach Jesus. This, once again, did not have a negative effect on the apostles (**v. 40-42**).

*There are a few things known from the full context of scripture, and in the immediate context which show why and how the apostles had such courage. 🡪*

**Courage is a necessity in preaching the word**

* Jesus was rejected (**cf. John 1:10-11**). But some will receive Him (**v. 12-13**).
* Those who receive Him will be rejected as He was (**1 John 3:1**).
* Jesus did not allow the rejection and threat against Him to stop Him from doing God’s will (**cf. Matthew 26:39; John 18:10-11)**.
  + Jesus courageously faced His duty – He was obedient to the point of death (**cf. Hebrews 5:8; Philippians 2:8**).
* We MUST have that courage to live for God (**cf. Hebrews 12:1-4; Matthew 16:21, 24-27** – Jesus must suffer, we must be willing to follow).

**Promise of Resurrection – Gave them hope that pushed them through trials.**

* This was an important part of the Gospel that the apostles preached everywhere (**cf. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4**).
* This was in the message of Peter and John (**cf. Acts 4:1-2** – The Sadducees claimed there was no resurrection but could prove that Jesus had not been raised, or else Christianity would have been debunked.)
  + Their message (**cf. Acts 3:15, 19-21** – After accusing them of murdering Him.)
    - This is a reference to the more specific coming of Christ to bless them for obedience.
    - If they did not repent, Christ would still come, but they wouldn’t receive reward.
* The coming resurrection encourages Christian living (**cf. 1 Corinthians 15:32b-34**).
  + This will lead to persecution and suffering, but the resurrection gives us COURAGE because of the eradication of the fear of death **(cf. 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Hebrews 2:14-15**).
  + Ultimately no harm can be done to the ones obedient to Christ (**cf. Matthew 10:28; 1 Peter 3:13-17; 5:10)**.

**Jesus is with them by Faith – Gave them security as they endured offenses.**

* (**Acts 4:19-20**) Their insistence on preaching the message came from the instruction of the Lord **(cf. 5:29**; **Matthew 28:18-20**).
  + Jesus ascended, leaving His disciples behind so it seems, but HE promised He was still with them. (He came to be with believers (**Matthew 1:23**) and continues to be with believers (**Matthew 28:20**).
  + This requires faith. He is only with those who have faith in Him (**cf. Galatians 2:20**).
  + If He is with us by faith then when He comes again we will be with Him (**cf. Colossians 3:4)**.
  + Faith is the substance of the things we look forward to in the resurrection (**cf. Hebrews 11:1**).
* The knowledge of Christs assures us of His presence and faithfulness. This produces courage to live for Him always (**cf. Hebrews 13:5-6**).
* This truth **(Romans 8:31-39**) is what lead to the apostles courage in the midst of adversity.