



ACTS : Courage

Acts 4:1-13 | Ryan Pfeiffer | February 15, 2026

INTRO. William Tyndale... 500 yrs ago something extraordinary happened.

- William Tyndale lived in England... 8 languages at 25.
- Time of reformation... rediscovery of salvation thru Jesus...
- William placed his faith in Jesus through reading Bible... only latin
- Translated the Bible into English so others could know Jesus!
- Flee for his life... smuggling bible back into England...
- 500yrs ago... Feb 11, 1526.... Two men caught and burned alive.
- Far from extinguishing... it fanned it into flame. 100K Bibles!
- 10 yrs later W. Tyndale was burned at the stake for this!
- The cost to have this bible in English! Hold your bibles up!

What is this incredible courage? Where does it come from? Todays Passage!

V13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Faith in Jesus inspires ordinary people with extraordinary courage/ boldness!

The Church has always been the greenhouse for courageous faith.

FOCUS. What are the unique & distinctive qualities of courageous faith.

FIRST. Courageous faith is going public with our faith. (Acts 4:1-4).

Notice how faith in Jesus compels disciples to act & speak out their faith!

Grk for courageous (parrêsia) lit. Freedom to speak openly.

Just look at Acts 4:18... its not the miracle its speaking of Jesus!

Courageous faith is willing to go public about Jesus... Wedding! Ring!

Our faith in Jesus is personal... yes! But not private... hidden... kept to ourself

1. This is not an anxious "I gotta convert everyone I see" mentality...
2. Courageous faith is being open and honest about Jesus with others.

It's partly why when we invite people to faith in Jesus... raise a hand... stand!

Faith in Jesus begins to free us from- fear of man...

Courage is leaning into this freedom

Luke 12:8 Whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.

When we do yeah... some will be greatly disturbed... but vs4... many believed!



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(Q) Is there some place in your life the Spirit is nudging you to open up?

SECOND: Courageous Faith is Rooted in Grace (Acts 4:5-7)

At daybreak, P/J stand before the full council— same leaders at Jesus' trial.

For Peter, I have to imagine it brings to mind both his denial... but also Jesus' restoring grace: "Peter... Do you love me?"

Tim Keller writes, "Plunge your failures into His grace, and it will make you both astonishingly bold and profoundly humble."

False courage is ego-driven—built on our strength, virtue, or knowledge. It leads to arrogance when we feel strong and fear when we feel weak.

Courage rooted in grace is different:

- Humble and patient
- Free from the need to prove or control
- Less defensive, more willing to listen and ask questions

James 1:19 be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...

The deeper our roots in grace, the bolder and gentler our faith becomes.

THIRD: Courageous Faith Leads with Kindness (Acts 4:8–12)

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, speaks boldly yet begins with respect:

"Rulers and elders of the people."

He doesn't attack or insult, but leads with kindness.

His introduction follows the pattern of ancient hellenistic Rhetoric "captatio benevolentiae" —inviting goodwill through respect.

Courageous faith is not harsh, self-righteous, or combative.

It's kindness that opens people's heart to hear the truth.

Romans 2:4 ...God's kindness leads you to repentance...

In fact this whole series of events began w/ a radical act of kindness- healing

Yet kindness does not mean compromise. Or watering down the truth.

Peter still speaks the hard truth:



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- v.10: “You crucified Jesus.”
- v.12: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

It’s challenging to say that there is no other name! I want to explain why!

No Other Name:

Jesus comes from Hebrew Yehoshua or Yeshua (short)

It combines two elements:

1. Yeho- (יהו) — a shortened form of the divine name YHWH (Yahweh)
2. -shua (שׁוּעַ) — from the Hebrew root יָשַׁע (yasha’) meaning to save, rescue, deliver.

So the meaning is not abstract — it is a confession about God’s action:

God Himself saves.

Salvation is not human achievement.

Salvation originates in God’s initiative.

Courageous faith pairs gentle respect with unwavering conviction.

ILLUS. When my friend was sharing Jesus with me... the truth that we are saved only through a faith relationship with Jesus shook me!

Reflection:

- Where is God inviting you to lead with kindness this week?
- What biblical truths are you tempted to stay silent about?
- Write one down, share it with a friend, and pray for boldness.