

# **"What Are We Going To Do With These Men?"**

## **Acts 4.1-31**

We are living in an age where there is much to be afraid of, and many people are in bondage to some form of fear or intimidation. We all have a tendency to fear. It is a weakness in the human race, and it can be a real problem for us as we seek to serve Jesus Christ.

As we attempt to live biblical Christianity in a secular society, we will come face to face with intimidation. The real question is what we will do when we face intimidation. Will we yield to fear, or will we find a way to overcome intimidation?

The apostles faced the same question because they faced intimidation every day in their ministry. As they sought to share the Gospel of Christ and win the world to Jesus, they had to come to grips with the intimidation of the world. In our text today, we see such a situation, and we will also find valuable lessons in how to conquer the intimidation which we face.

### **A Timeless Question**

In Acts 1, the promise is given by Jesus that the disciples would receive power. In Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, they received that power. It was the power to become mighty witnesses for Jesus Christ. Thousands of people were saved that day and the power of God was unleashed. In Acts 3, we see the power of God used to help people. Now, in Acts 4, we see the fallout of that healing among the religious leaders of the day.

*"The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. **They were greatly disturbed** because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. **They seized Peter and John**, and because it was evening, **they put them in jail until the next day**. But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand."* Acts 4.1-4

*"**'What are we going to do with these men?'** they asked. 'Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.'" Acts 4.16-17*

### **An Appropriate Response**

*"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."* Acts 4.13

*"Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, 'Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. **For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.**'"* Acts 4.18-20

### **A Collective Position**

The desire for boldness and bold witness was a collective quest of the whole Church. If we desire boldness as they did, we must go to the same source to receive it. The confidence of Peter and John was as a result of them having been with Jesus, so when they needed more boldness and more confidence, they came to Jesus again to receive it.

*"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."* Acts 4.29-30

*"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."* Acts 4.31