



Prayer and Spirit

**Shaken....**



**The back story**

**Peter and John went to  
pray....**

## **Three points (!!)**

- **An unjust arrest.....**
- **An unusual prayer.....**
- **An unselfish life...**

# Acts 4:1-22



# **An unjust arrest....**

- **In front of the same court that condemned Jesus**
  - **The one thing not questioned is the resurrection**

**"It is particularly striking that neither on this nor on any subsequent occasion ... did the Sanhedrin take any serious action to disprove the apostles' central affirmation - the resurrection of Jesus. Had it seemed possible to refute them on this point, how readily would the Sanhedrin seized the opportunity! Had they succeeded, how quickly and completely the new movement would have collapsed!"**

**FF Bruce**

# Observations....

- **Filled with the Spirit...**
  - Peter was filled again by the Spirit – it didn't stop at Pentecost
  - "Be (continually) filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18)
- **The power of kindness....**
  - "If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed" (Acts 4:9)
  - "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21)
- **How did Luke know of the private discussions?**
  - Saul, soon to be Paul, was there
  - The Spirit at work, even before Stephen is martyred?

# **All things work together....**

- 1. Two thousand more people believe in Jesus**
- 2. Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit again**
- 3. Peter gets to preach to the Jewish leaders**
- 4. Hostile examiners are forced to confirm a miraculous healing**
- 5. The enemies of Jesus are confused**
- 6. Peter and John are even bolder for Jesus**
- 7. God is glorified**

Acts 4:23-31





# An unusual prayer...

- **Note that....**
  - They start their prayers with worship of God
  - Their prayer is for boldness, not protection
- **There is unity in their prayer**
- **There is power in vocal, corporate, prayer**
- **It is God who acts**
  - “Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus” (Acts 4:30)
- **What John Coles said at New Wine last year...**



# **A need for boldness...**

- **Are we bold or are we fearful?**
- **Do our prayers centre on the chaos in this world, or on the Kingdom?**
- **“Enable us to speak your word in great boldness” – Boldness got us into trouble – make us more bold to speak of Jesus**
- **Boldness is not arrogance – but we need a winsome boldness to talk about Jesus (and probably not the church)**

Acts 4:32-37



# An unselfish life...

- **Their life together started with prayer...**
  - “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)
- **And continuing unity...**
  - “All the believers were one in heart and mind” (Acts 4:32)
- **Community growing from God’s grace...**
  - “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them” (Acts 4:33-34)

# And for us?

- **Sorry, but the needle has stuck...**
  - We need to be filled again with the Spirit
  - We need to join the UK church in prayer
  - We need to hope for revival
- **But we may need to change our lives...**
  - Kindness, unity, boldness and grace
- **And yes, it could happen here!**
  - A repeat snippet from the New Wine video of Malcolm Duncan
  - We don't need to be Gaelic or elderly (but it might help?)



# **A call to prayer...**

**"A few men unarmed, furnished with no garrisons, do show forth more power in their voice alone, than all the world, by raging against them."**

**John Calvin**