

Acts 4:24-30 – Prayer For Boldness! It was Answered!

11/26/16 Sat Morn Prayer

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS – sung by Jadon Lavik

*I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.*

*Though none go with me, still I will follow; though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow; no turning back, no turning back.*

*The cross before me; the world behind me; the cross before me; the world behind me
the cross before me; the world behind me, no turning back, no turning back.
No turning back, no turning back*

Acts 4:24-30 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, [25] who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'WHY DID THE NATIONS RAGE, AND THE PEOPLE PLOT VAIN THINGS? [26] THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' [27] 'For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together [28] to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. [29] Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, [30] by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.'"

Context/Biblical Background – Christ's followers do best in company, provided it is their own company. It encourages God's servants, both in doing work, and suffering work, that they serve the God who made all things, and therefore has the disposal of all events; and the Scriptures must be fulfilled. We see here initial success in the early church. What really was the secret of their success? The fourth chapter of Acts provides the answer: **the Christians of the early church knew how to pray so that God's hand could work in mighty power.** After being commanded by the Sanhedrin not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus, Peter and John boldly answered, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20). So after further being threatened they let them go. Then they went to their own companions and reported all the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and prayed this prayer! (Acts 4:23-31) They do not pray, Lord let us go away from our work, now that it is become dangerous, but, **Lord, give us Your grace to go on steadfastly in our work, and not to fear the face of man.**

THE EARLY CHURCH PRAYS FOR BOLDNESS:

v. 24 They raised their voice: - They prayed aloud! It is certainly possible to pray silently in our minds, but we can focus our thoughts more effectively when we speak out our prayers.

v. 24 With one accord: - They prayed in unity, in one accord. There was no strife or contention among them.

v. 24 Lord, You are God: - They begin by correctly address the one true God, reminding themselves who they are praying to. They are praying to the Lord of all creation, the God of all power.

v. 25 By the mouth of Your servant David have said: - Peter, speaking for all the disciples (they were praying *with one accord*), recognized that words of the Old Testament (***Psalms* 2**) were really the words of God.

- God was speaking ***by the mouth of Your servant David.***
- Peter quotes *Psalms* 2 here because he and the other disciples understand what is happening to them by seeing what the Bible says about it. From *Psalms* 2, they understand that they should expect this sort of opposition and not be troubled because of it.
- When we pray, we must see our circumstances in light of God's Word.
- Seeing our circumstances in light of God's Word also means seeing when there is a sin problem. Then, we should say with the Psalmist, *When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder, my words became daylong groans. The pressure never let up; all the juices of my life dried up. (Psa. 32:3-4).*
- We also use Scripture in prayer to pray and stand on the promises of God.

v. 27 These enemies of Jesus could only ***do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.***

- This **brings real peace, knowing that whatever comes my way has passed through God's hand first**, and He will not allow even the most wicked acts of men to result in permanent damage.

v. 29 They ask for more boldness, more power, and essentially more trouble!

Grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word:

- This request is consumed with God's cause and glory, not the comfort and advancement of the disciples. They

ask for things that will lead to *more* confrontation, not less!

v. 30 *By stretching out Your hand to heal:* - They do not ask to do miracles themselves but for the Lord to act.

v. 31 *Their prayer is answered.*

- And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.**

SUMMARY:

- ❖ Acts chapters 3 & 4 are a wonderful example of the conflict between the believer and the world.
- ❖ Peter and John experienced great victory in boldly praying for the healing of the lame man.
- ❖ After the mountain top experience of the healing and the positive response of the crowd that followed, the priests and Sadducees came upon them.
- ❖ The early church was told not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. They responded by saying “For we cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard.” They were then threatened
- ❖ Their response is such a wonderful example for us – pray in one accord!
- ❖ Filling of the Holy Spirit and enabling them to pray in boldness was the result!!

PRAY TODAY FOR: (Name persons, name things, take direct aim at the objective of your supplications)

- Our Church, Nationally and locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; for kings and those in authority
- Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and the one VACANCY
- When in small groups - Personal Prayers:
- Our President Elect and Vice President Elect: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence.
- The new administration being formed! Positions filled so far: Reince Priebus, chief of staff; Stephen Bannon, chief strategist and senior counselor; Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, attorney general; Gen. Mike Flynn, national security adviser; Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo, CIA director; Nikki Haley, Ambassador to UN; Betsy DeVos, Sec of Education; K.T. McFarland, Deputy Natl Security Advisor. Chairman - Vice President-elect and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence
- Others in the news: Ben Carson; Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn; Rudy Giuliani; Members of Presidential Transition Team Executive Committee; Lou Barletta; Marsha Blackburn; Pam Bondi; Chris Collins; Jared Kushner; Tom Marino; Rebekah Mercer; Steven Mnuchin, Devin Nunes; Anthony Scaramucci; Peter Thiel; Trump children Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump and Ivanka Trump; Executive Director: Rick Dearborn, chief of staff to Sen. Sessions

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS:

SUDAN

Sudan President: Omer Al-Bashir; **V. Pres.** Hassabo Mohamed Abdel Rahman

South Sudan President: Salva Kiir; **V. Pres.** Taban Deng Gai;

Population of North and South Sudan is estimated at **about 41 million**. In area, it is the third largest country in Africa, behind Congo and Algeria.

Challenges for Prayer: (*Operations World*) - **Pray for:** *a) A complete end to the violence* and upheaval in Darfur *b) The execution of justice c) The restoration of peace.* There are many issues still needing prayer: *a) The peace agreement. b) The 2011 referendum on independence. c) The remarkable church growth.* Persecution of the Church. The Church is growing. *a) The faith and optimism of Christians. b) People movements.* The pressing needs of the Church include: *a) Unity. b) Discipling, teaching and strengthening. c) Recovery.* Sudanese Christian leaders - *a) Theological training institutions. b) Informal training programs. c) Income for pastors.* Ministry challenges for the Church: *a) Muslim majority.* Pray that the Holy Spirit might work in the hearts of those who struggle in this area. *b) Khartoum. c) The Nuba Mountain peoples, d) The SPLA, e) Children and young people.* Less-evangelized peoples - Pray especially for these: *a) Darfur Province. b) The Beja. c) The Nubians. d) The nomadic and semi-nomadic Baggara tribes.* Pray for these: *a) Ministry in the north. b) Burgeoning activity in the south, c) African missionaries to Sudan, d) The calling and preparation* of indigenous and expatriate workers. Christian help ministries: *a) The Bible Society. b) Bible translation* is still a major need. *c) Christian literature* is in short supply. *d) The JESUS film*

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