

October 22/23, 2005

**Study Questions**  
*The Unstoppable Church*  
**Courageous Christians**  
**Acts 4:5-31**  
Pastor Bryan Clark

### **Opening Discussion**

1. In a general sense, what does it mean to count the cost of following Jesus?
2. In a much more personal sense, what has it cost you to follow Jesus?
3. What does a courageous Christian look like in our American culture?

### **Bible Study**

1. Read Acts 4:1-31. Compare these verses in Acts with Luke 21:12-15 and I Peter 4:12-19. If we as Christians are going to take our mission seriously, what should we expect?
2. Rehearse what Peter and John had witnessed first hand regarding Jesus and His suffering only a matter of a few weeks earlier. What might they have been thinking that night in jail?

How much courage did it take to face off against the same religious leaders that had Jesus crucified?

3. What gave Peter and John their courage?

What is the key to our being courageous to stand for Jesus when the pressure is on?

4. What amazed the religious leaders according to Acts 4:13?

What does that tell us about God's ability to use us to accomplish His purpose?

5. Peter and John practiced what we call civil disobedience. When is this acceptable?

6. Read Psalm 2 which is quoted in Acts 4. In what way does Psalm 2 describe the unstoppable Church?

What is the effect of persecution on the Church around the world?

Is the church more effective in times of persecution or prosperity? Why?

Are you more faithful to the mission of Christ in times of persecution or struggle or in times of prosperity? Why?

## **Application**

1. Identify one specific area where you need to be more courageous to take a stand for Christ.
2. What do you learn from this text in Acts that can help you take that stand?
3. Take the time to pray for one another and the specific areas where you need to take your stand.