



Pleasing People vs God

Welcome to worship with NewDay!

We are so grateful you are here, worshipping with us today. We pray you will know Jesus' love for you, and grow closer to Him, and others. At NewDay, we are currently working our way through the book of Acts. Today, we are learning together more about what it means to follow Jesus, and grow together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, as well as how the early church grew and testified boldly of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:13-31

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Which is

right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:



"Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ 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.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ 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 ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

NOTES

Sermon Reflection Questions

Have you ever been in a position like Peter and John, defending or explaining something Jesus had done, or why you believe in Him? If so, what challenged you about that situation?

What was the outcome of the situation?

How did your faith grow?

What situations do you feel a need to please people, and where does this need come from for you?

If you sought to live for "an audience of 1" how would your life look differently, or what would remain the same?

When you consider how the early church grew, what important and necessary elements do you notice?

If we apply the early church growth model to our current time and place, what is needed and what is missing?

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values: We Are...

...a community that has a passion to serve others.

...a community that longs for deeper life relationships with God and others.

...passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.

...a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.

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