

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of July 11th, 2021

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Prayer Under Pressure

Speaker: Pastor Beau Jensen

Icebreaker

- What would be harder to go a week without, your cellphone or your car?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. In times of Pressure... God's People Pray! (Acts 4:23-24)

- In tense situations what is your first reaction?
 - When you lead with prayer how does that change YOUR heart about the situation?
- What did you have to DEAL with yesterday?
 - What difference would it make if you first prayed and let Jesus DEAL with that situation instead?
- Have you struggled with QUANTITY of time spent with God and QUALITY of time spent with God?
- How do you acknowledge God as Sovereign Lord over your life?

II. In times of Pressure... God's People Learn to Pray the scriptures (Acts 4:25-28)

- Even Jesus had opposition in his life, all throughout his ministry people stood in his way, but still he faced it with courage.
 - How can you pray to God to give you that same courage from the Holy Spirit to go out and make a difference in the

community?

- Have you ever been so afraid of what people would think that you did not pray when you should have?
 - How would that change if you first prayed for the courage you needed?
- Acknowledging God in the midst of opposition shows the greatest courage when facing the enemy. Even though we all face threats we still have a mission.
 - What is your mission today and how can praying for the courage to face it help you get there?
 - When you get off track of that mission how can you get back on track and refocus?
- Share how remembering God's word encourages and strengthens you during troubling times. Share some of your go-to scriptures with one another.

III. In times of Pressure... God's People Pray to be Empowered with Boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)

- After listening to this point's title I stood up straighter, my chest puffed out a bit, I stood a little taller. Do you find that you have a physical response to the title and command?
- In verse 29 they ask God to intervene so they can speak with boldness, have you ever not gone to God because you are trying to figure out things on your own?
 - Why did you avoid God?
 - Does going to God make you feel weak and powerless?
- What does it mean to be bold and empowered?

- How does knowing that God gives us the Holy Spirit which grants us the boldness to speak God's word encourage you?

Act On It

Encourage: God wants us to speak His word to others. He has given us the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit, He has given us the written word of God, He has surrounded us with others to pray for us, to go out alongside us, to support us, and encourage us in all that we are doing in the name of God. Despite what the world may do to shut you down or reject you or even what our own self doubt may say to us our God says we have what it takes to overcome. Our God says He will make the way for us and He will give us the boldness we need to fulfill His will.

Ask: Let us ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit through which we can have the boldness needed to speak the word of God. Ask God to remind us of His Sovereignty. Ask God to send you and go with you as we continue our walk of faith to be obedient and confident. Ask to be given a spirit of response instead of reaction. Pray to be shown whose back you need to have and thank him for those who have your back.

Challenge: Pastor Beau asked us who has our back, who's back do you have? We challenge you to call at least one person this week and pray for them. Pray for a family member or friend. Pray for that person you know is struggling and invite God into the situation through prayer. Remember the story Beau shared with us when his wife came to him in the pool. Our words don't have to be elegant or long but simple, true, and full of confidence that God can help any situation. Decide this week whose back to have.