



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 48

Ordinary

Acts 4:13 (NIV),

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.

For this teaching, I want to start by taking a direct look at a few words here, which are courage, unschooled, and ordinary. In the King James version, these three words are read as boldness, unlearned, and ignorant which honestly seem to color them more accurately and in line with the definitions.

The word courage or boldness is defined here in Strong's as, 3954 parrhēsía (from 3956 /pás, "all" and rhēsis, "a proverb or statement quoted with resolve," L-S) – properly, confidence (bold resolve), leaving a witness that something deserves to be remembered (taken seriously).

The word unlearned or unschooled is defined here in Strong's as, 62 ag-ram-mat-os unlettered, illiterate, uneducated, perhaps with the narrower idea: unacquainted with Rabbinic teaching.

The word ordinary or ignorant is defined here in Strong's as, 2399 idiōtēs (from 2398 /ídios, "own") – properly, of one's own self; used of a person who conspicuously lacks education or status – hence, easily misunderstood as being uninstructed (unrefined, "unlettered in speech").

Very short and to the point Peter and John were seen as bold, illiterate idiots by the religious leaders of their time. Ouch! However, Scripture also tells that these religious leaders, while seeing them in this light also saw that they had been with Jesus and recognized their boldness and resolve to stand on what they knew to be true. A few passages come directly to mind that identifies the real situation here because we know that Peter and John were not bold, illiterate, idiots but were, in fact, those to whom Jesus willed to build His church upon. They are

found in 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 26-27 (ESV),

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (18)

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. (26-27)

You see, the saints of old realized that everything they were was found in Christ alone. There was no worldly recognition or education that brought the Gospel in its power and they knew this firsthand. While Peter and John were nobody in earthly terms, they understood the power of God and were emboldened by the Holy Spirit.

Not to trail off too far, but an interesting side note comes unpacked from Acts 4:23-31. Right after Peter and John were arrested, threatened and released from the persecution derived from the healing of a man at the gate beautiful and from which comes our headline text, they gathered together with some believers and together after sharing what they suffered for the name of Jesus prayed an amazing prayer. In it they said,

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31 (ESV)

Paul who wrote the passages we read in 1 Corinthians understood this as well and said that he did not preach the gospel with words of eloquence because he knew that if he did the cross would be emptied of its power (1 Corinthians 1:17). In other places, Paul testifies to the ministry that God gave him and how Christ accomplished it through him by ‘*the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God*’ (Romans 15:19).

O if we could see this type of revival and restoration, we would surely see people come to Christ in droves. The driving force of this type of ministry is nothing short of full, unreserved surrender to Jesus Christ and His specific will for each of us individually. Very simply, we must at all costs, be filled with the Spirit and faith. I say this, that when this is believed and applied, we will see a new fire burning in the church.

It is important to note that while we may look much like Peter and John did to the world and even some of the church, we must be assured that we are actually following Christ as these two men were. When we are assured it won't matter what anyone else thinks. In fact, we will know that we look like bold, illiterate idiots to the world as well as the religious of our time because the things of God are often much different than the things of man. For this reason, let us take heart and live lives that only make sense to God, setting our minds on things above and not so much on the things of this earth or the system of it.

When we have truly been with Jesus it changes us. Often times it changes us so much that we don't look like everything around us any longer. The things we once held to are fading into nothingness and the glory of God appears bringing us from glory to glory. This is a good thing and something we should seek more of.

Our Father, in heaven, Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done. We need a near revival that changes the way we think and believe so we can walk in the fullness of Christ on this earth. Truly what no eye has seen, nor ear heard the things which You have prepared for those who love You. I am confident that You have called us to greater works and pray that You Lord would furnish Your Spirit and grant us to speak Your word with all boldness and then accompany Your word with miracles, signs, and wonders. Let us become fools for You. In Jesus name. Amen.

Strong's:

courage/boldness: taken from <https://biblehub.com/greek/3954.htm>

unlearned/unschooled: taken from <https://biblehub.com/greek/62.htm>

ordinary/ignorant: taken from <https://biblehub.com/greek/2399.htm>

In Christ's Love,
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