

DEVOTIONAL TIME

11-04-2014 @ 0900

“You Are Never Alone”

Acts 4:5-10

COME...NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP!

Come...Now is the time to worship! Come! Now is the time to give your heart!
Come...just as you are to worship! Come, just as you are before your God! Come!
One day every tongue will confess: “You are God!” One day every knee will bow!
Still the greatest treasure remains for those...who gladly choose You now!

Acts 4:5-10

“The next day, the Jewish leaders, the Elders, and the Teachers of the Law gathered in Jerusalem. They met with the High Priest Annas, and with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and the others who belonged to the High Priest’s family. They made the Apostles stand before them and asked them, ‘How did you do this? What power do you have, or whose name did you use?’ Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, answered them, ‘Leaders of the People and Elders: if we are being questioned today about the good deed done to the lame man, and how he was healed, then you should all know, and all the people of Israel should know, that this man stands here before you completely well through the Power of the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth – whom you crucified, and whom God raised from death!’”

QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

- Have you ever had to go before a board of inquiry, panel of experts, or group of high-ranking, “powerful” individuals for any reason? Did you feel nervous? Alone? Powerless?
- Can you remember a time when you had studied hard for a test, or rehearsed your lines for an important interview, only to have all thought “slip away” at the critical moment?
- On any occasion in which your faith in God or your church affiliation was questioned, did you feel confident of your answers? Were you ready to “stand” for your beliefs?

Peter and John are now standing before the very same group that “forced the issue” on Jesus, and had Him killed. Peter and John are both very aware that “truth”, “facts”, or even innocence itself aren’t necessarily high on the priority lists of their opposition. This group is out to “cover their own six”, maintain their own “power base” and “comfort zone”, and eliminate anyone who would threaten their “establishment”. Peter and John can “hear death knocking at their door” in this interview. Their accusers are asking “loaded questions”, and “honest answers” will land the Apostles in a whole world of hurt. Then “anointing happens”! The Holy Spirit begins to stir within Peter, assuring him of the Presence and Power of God. No longer “alone”, Peter speaks the “Truth of God” with conviction, as the Holy Spirit imparts the words to say, and all the passion needed to speak them with confidence. (Can you remember a time when you were at a loss as to which way to go or what to say, when suddenly God showed up, and led you surely through your crisis?) The “worldly” are talented about “showing a good face”, appearing very formidable, and using all their wiles to silence God’s people. If we have “waited on the Lord” long enough to receive His Spirit, we have nothing to fear. God will “take our part”, and no weapons forged against us will stand! O God, grant us the Grace of True Wisdom. Give us patience enough to wait upon Your Will until awareness of Your nearness forges in us the Courage we need to go “all in” for You. When the “worldly” challenge us, as they all too often do, keep us ready to respond with courtesy as we are able, but with fidelity to the Love and Truth You have revealed in Your beloved Son, and shared in Your Spirit of Peace!