

Proclaims the Gospel Boldly

Peter and John on their way to pray at the temple (Acts 3:1-26)

Portrait of Peter

Faithfully living out his day (3:1).

Available for a holy interruption (3:3-4).

Empathetic to others (3:3-4).

Spiritual clarity of the real need and its solution (3:6).

Expectant of Jesus (3:7).

Had room for one more (3:8).

Opportunistic, clear, and bold with the gospel (3:11-26)

While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you?

You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you-even Jesus.

Proclaims the Gospel Boldly

A church on mission looks for opportunities to proclaim the gospel clearly and boldly.

Persecuted but not Swayed

Peter and John arrested and questioned.

The priests and the captain of the temple quard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

"It is noteworthy that the first question the council asked did not probe the men for truth but challenged their authority.

They didn't ask Peter and John to offer a defense for their views, to back up their preaching with Scripture or factual evidence; they asked for their resumés and credentials."

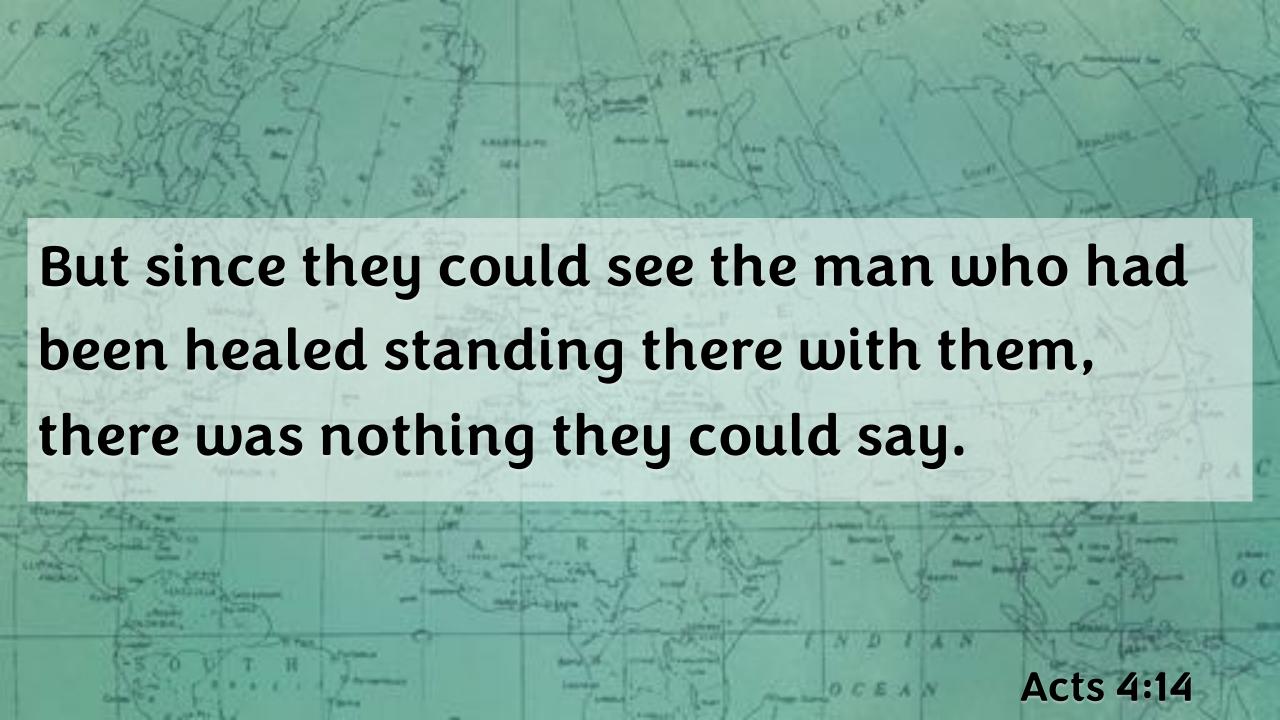
Chuck Swindoll

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel:

It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

He is "'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

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.



Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Persecuted but not Swayed

A church on mission expects persecution and is unswayed when earthly rulers challenge the Lord's authority over her life.

Prayers are Mission Focused Peter and John return to their community and pray.

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

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.

Prayers are Mission Focused

A church on mission's prayers reflect the mission – the spreading of the gospel.

People are United

The Church takes care of one another.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them.

People are United

A church on mission's people are a united community marked by sacrificial love.

The Church on mission is bold in her proclamation of the gospel, courageous in persecution, missional in their prayers, and united in heart and mind.

Next Steps

- I will pray through who in my life needs to hear the gospel, and then share with them.
- I will spend time praying for God's mission to be courageously lived out in my life.
- · I will spend time with Jesus this week.

