

Sermon Outline

THE FIRST DISCIPLES' SECOND PRAYER | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Acts 4:1-22, 23-31 (p.1533)

Great Prayers in the Bible ...

23/11	David's prayer (after a cancelled building project)	2 Sam 7:1-29
30/11	Solomon's prayer (at the opening of the Temple)	2 Chr 6:12-42
7/12	Daniel's prayer (after the Temple has been destroyed)	Dan 9:1-19
14/12	Ezra's prayer (after the Temple has been rebuilt)	Ezra 9:1-15
21/12	Our Lord's kingdom-building prayer	Mt 6:9-13
28/12	Simeon's prayer	Lk 2:22-35
4/1	Jesus' prayer for us	Jn 17
11/1	The Pharisees' prayer and the tax collector's prayer	Lk 18:9-14
18/1	The first disciples' first prayer	Acts 1:15-26
25/1	The first disciples' second prayer	Acts 4:1-31

Acts 1:7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

1. Peter and John are persecuted for witnessing to Jesus (vv1-22)

- "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (v12)

- "courage" (v13)

2. The disciples pray in response (vv23-31)

Q. What would you have prayed in this situation?

Everything is taking place exactly according to God's plan:

i. God is the creator of all things

ii. God is the great promise-maker and promise-keeper

- "anointed one" = Messiah

- "in vain" (Ps 2) = futile, useless, hollow, without results

Acts 4:29 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."

i. v29 is a prayer for boldness in the face of expected ongoing opposition

- "boldness" (v29) = "courage" (v13)

ii. v30 is a prayer for God to keep drawing attention to Jesus

- 2 immediate answers:

i. "the place where they were meeting was shaken"

ii. "all were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly"

- "boldly" (v31) = "boldness" (v29) = "courage" (v13)

So what, for us?

i. "They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen"

- God's sovereignty and our responsibility

- <https://www.trinitycity.church/sermons/3-the-confrontation/>

- the cross of Christ

ii. "Consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness"

Q1. What will help you keep praying for **courage** and **boldness** to speak the word of God **boldly**?

Q2. How do you plan to be involved in Christ's mission this year?

Sovereign Lord

You made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them

Nothing happens unless your power and will has decided beforehand it should happen

Thank you for inviting us into your mission to witness to Christ to the ends of the earth

Enable us your servants to speak your word with great boldness each day, and every day

In the name of your holy servant Jesus, Amen.