

SERMON NOTES

David A. Renwick, September 26, 2010

Founding Fathers and Mothers 6: . “Bold Over and Over”

Acts 4:1-31

And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants 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.”

Acts 4:29-30

A. Our Founding Father and Mothers

1. experienced almost constant trouble and opposition!
See Acts Chapters 4,5,7,8,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,21!!!
2. Yet the Church still grew
Acts 4:5 “*the men (not including women) numbered about 5000*”

B. Why did people keep joining the church? & How were they sustained and re-energized?

1. The Irrefutable Experience of Jesus’ Resurrection

- a. Nobody could produce the body to refute the claim
- b. “*We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard*” Acts 4:19

2. The Transformative Companionship of Jesus

- a. “*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.*” Acts 4:13
- b. After 4 years at Clemson or USC you bleed _____
After 3 years at Law School you think like a _____
- c. They were companions in person . . .
We are companions through the Gospels . . .

3. The Energizing Bond of Friendship/Fellowship

- a. “*After they were released, they went to their friends*” Acts 4:23
- b. see, *Well, What Are Friends For?* by Tara Parker-Pope, April 21, 2009, www.nytimes.com/2009/04/21/health/21well.html
. . . friends lead to health . . . decrease in fear . . .
- d. With Friends, they prayed an amazing prayer (4:29-30)
not to blame _____
not for God to _____ trouble
but for _____ in the face of trouble!