

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week November 10, 2013

This Week's Focus: Peter and John are threatened and released from jail. The church comes together in unity and pray, affirming God's sovereignty and seeking His help to fulfill their calling as witnesses.

This Week's Text: Acts 4:23-35

*In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **1 Peter 1:6-9***

*"It's not a word about God; it's a word from God. It's not speculation; it's revelation. It's not how we perceive God; it's how God reveals himself to be." **Mark Driscoll***

Related Texts: Matthew 5:11-12, 28:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 2 Peter 1:21

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Discuss the context of this passage, i.e. the healing of the lame man and the response of the religious leaders.
- What is the first thing Peter and John do when they are released? What does this say about them and about the community to which they belong?
- How do these disciples handle the crisis they are in?
- What are the marks of the prayer, which brings down such power into the disciples?
 - What does it say about God?
- Why is it important to remember the sovereignty of God in the midst of persecution and suffering?

- What does this prayer have to say about the scriptures?
- In verse 26, how does the quote from Psalm 2 apply to their situation?
- Peter and John brought the report back to their disciples, and instead of fear, they asked God for increased boldness to continue forward. Would this be our reaction if local leaders told us to keep quiet about our faith?
 - What strikes you about this part of their prayer?
 - Is there anything surprising about their prayer?
 - What do they ask for? What don't they ask for? What's their overriding concern?
- What does this entire chapter teach us about witness and ministry?
- The place where they were gathered together was shaken. Why? Reference Exodus 19 and Isaiah 6.
- What was their attitude toward material possessions?
 - Why do you think they were willing to make these sacrifices?
- Why do the disciples keep witnessing to the fact of the resurrection?

Gospel Celebration:

- Because of the gospel we are eternally secured.
- Because of the gospel we can take comfort in suffering and persecution.
- Because of the gospel we can take comfort in God's sovereignty, working all things out for His glory and our good.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for opportunities to boldly witness to others concerning the person and work of Jesus.
- Pray that we will be courageous in the midst of persecution.

Next Week's Text: Acts 4:34-5:11