

Adventures in God

Opening text: Acts 4:10-20

V.20“For we cannot but speak about the things we have seen and heard”

1. Even in the face of opposition and the threat of death, Peter had an almost ‘compulsive’ urge to talk about Jesus

We cannot but speak! He couldn’t help himself, he had to speak.

They had just commanded a man paralysed 40 years to walk. God performed the miracle right before everyone else’s eyes. Peter used the opportunity to lead 5000 men to Jesus (4:4).

How could he keep quiet?

2. For we cannot but speak about the things which we have seen and heard

- a) Somehow all that Peter and John had seen and all that they had heard as they walked with Jesus, positioned them for that moment.

Unfortunately, I can’t say that most of us are always positioned for the miraculous like that. But we need to! We need to because the world needs to know Jesus and because with all the scientific knowledge we possess today, we are still surrounded by impossibilities and situations where only a miracle will do!

- b) What they saw and what they heard empowered them to respond supernaturally to a natural impossibility.

God wants to empower you and I to respond supernaturally to natural impossibilities.

3. How much have you seen, how much have you heard, and what do you speak about?

- a) Peter and John walked with Jesus. All they saw and all they heard came simply by walking with Jesus.

V. 13: *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

Their faith, their doctrine, their preaching stories their testimonies, all came because they walked with Jesus. That is still the place where we will receive the boldness, the faith, the vision for the miraculous. That is still how we get positioned and empowered to do what they did.

The two man who walked with Jesus on the road to Emaus said,

Luke 24:32 - *Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*

We can hear preachers, and certainly that is important, but nothing replaces your own walk with Jesus.

b) From the earliest of times God has always been wanting man to walk with Him.

Adam failed to walk with God because he compromised his relationship with Him.

Genesis 3:8-9 - *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

Genesis 5:24 - *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

Genesis 6:9 - *This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.*

Genesis 17:1 - *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*

Jesus said, follow Me. Come take a walk with Me. Don't just come to visit Me once a week but walk with Me every day.

You need to build your own history with God. That no preacher can give you. A preacher can impart spiritual gifts (Romans 1:11) but no one can 'impart' their history on you.

c) Another by-product of walking with Jesus is faith. As Peter and John walked with Jesus they heard a lot of God's word.

Faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17) – in fact by hearing and hearing and hearing – consistently hearing God's word.

Their hearts were full of the substance of miracles: faith. When you are full, you are likely to leak!

Without a personal, consistent, investment of one's time in God's word no one will be able to live in this dimension of power. We will always be unprepared to respond supernaturally to a natural impossibility.

Colossians 3: 16a - *Let the word of God dwell in you richly...*

4. How much have you seen? How much have you heard? How much have you walked with Jesus?

a) Walking with Jesus sometimes involves risk, like Peter walking on the waters.

However, when you have walked on the waters you know you can walk anywhere and do anything! No one can stop you!

What you have seen and heard becomes an effective platform for the miraculous:

- b) In 1 Samuel 17 we read the story of the confrontation between a confident David and the intimidating giant. Basically, David said, *I have killed the lion and the bear. What is this uncircumcised?*

What David saw with the bear, prepared him for the lion. What he saw with the lion, prepared him for the giant. What he saw God do with that giant prepared him for the throne of Israel.

Most people live such calculated lives – no risk involved, no need for faith. The end result of living like that is that you won't see much of the miraculous either.

The just shall live by faith! – that is the only way you will build your history with God. That is how you will be able to have the boldness of Peter and John and say, “in the name of Jesus rise up and walk”!

Conclusion

This message is God's encouragement to us today about two things:

- Let us be a supernatural people, filled with great faith, positioned to do great exploits for God
- Let us understand the simple key to that: we need to walk with Jesus. When you walk with Him and when you hear His word, you are going to see things that will change your life. You won't be able to be quiet about them. Like Peter, you will say, *we cannot but speak about the things we have seen and heard.*

Develop your own history with God and embark on your own faith adventures with Him!