

# **BOLDNESS IS RADICAL OBEDIENCE**

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Jesus is bold. His early disciples were bold. And we need to be bold; especially in the coming days. What does it mean to be bold? The dictionary tells us that used as an adjective of a person, action or idea it is: showing an ability to take risks, confident and courageous; daring--**audacious**--showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.

What does boldness look like?

## **Acts Chapter 4 (Jewish Bible)**

Peter and John were still speaking to the people when the high priest, the captain in charge of the Temple police, and the Sadducees came upon them, very annoyed that they were teaching the people the doctrine of resurrection from the dead and offering Yeshua (Jesus) as proof. [What is the doctrine of resurrection from the dead?](#)

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The Temple police arrested them; and since it was already evening, they put them in custody overnight. However, many of those who heard the message trusted; the number of men alone was about five thousand.

The next day, the people's rulers, elders and Torah-teachers (scribes) assembled in Jerusalem, along with Annals the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander and the other men from the family of the high priestly relationship. They had the emissaries (Peter & John) stand before them and asked, "By what power or in what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being examined today about a good deed done for a disabled person, if you want to know how he was restored to health, then let it be known to you and to all the people of Israel that it is in the name of the Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus) from Nazareth, whom you had executed on a stake as a criminal but whom God has raised from the dead, that this man stands before you perfectly healed.

"This Jesus is the stone rejected by you builders which has become the cornerstone. There is salvation in no one else! For there is no other name under Heaven given to mankind by whom we must be saved!" [What Scripture is Peter quoting?](#)

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When they saw how **bold** Peter and John were, even though they were untrained, common men with no educational advantages, they were amazed; also they recognized them as having been with Yeshua (Jesus). Moreover, since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there beside them, there was nothing they could say to discredit the healing. So they told them to step away from the Sanhedrin while they discussed the matter privately. "What can we do with these men?" they asked each other. "Why, anyone in Jerusalem can see that a remarkable miracle has come about through them--we can't possibly deny that. But to prevent it from spreading any further among the people, let's warn them not to speak any more to anyone in this name."

So they called them in again and ordered them under no circumstances to speak or teach in the name of Yeshua. But Peter and John answered, "You must judge whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than God. As for us, we can't help talking about what we have actually seen and heard."

They threatened them some more but finally let them go--they couldn't punish them because of the people, for everyone was praising God over what had happened, since the man who had been miraculously healed was more than forty years old.

In our text, Peter and John are in the temple and are being interrogated by the religious leaders for the healing of the lame man on the previous day. (Acts chapter 3 tells what happened.) The problem was not that this man was healed, but that Peter and John used the occasion of the healing to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and many were saved as a result.

The Pharisees now understood that they had a real problem on their hands because in the past couple of weeks there had been nearly ten thousand of their ranks that had joined the Christians. Something had to be done about these trouble makers.

In the midst of all of this, the Jewish leadership made some observations about Peter and John found in verse 13:

- They were bold--evidence of their being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- They were willing to yield to what He wanted to do through them.
- They had no educational advantages, yet they possessed a wisdom and knowledge that could not be refuted.
- These men were fishermen by trade; they were not trained in the Scriptures, but they knew the Word of God.
- Consider all the passages that Peter quoted in his sermons.
- They had been with Jesus--this is perhaps the greatest compliment a Christian can be given.
- These two humble fishermen reminded the religious leaders of Jesus.
- They saw Jesus in them.
- They were audacious--taking a bold risk standing up to the religious rulers--preaching to the 'preachers'!
- They were confident and definitely courageous. **They were bold.**

Even after being warned and threatened with severe punishment, they answered "We must obey our Lord rather than men." (Acts 5:29) They were told not to teach others in the name of Jesus, but these men did not listen to the council and taught in His name anyway. As a result they were rearrested and threatened again not to teach in His name. Again, they did not listen to this unrighteous council.

When man speaks, each person must measure what is being spoken. To do this one needs a measuring tool. The only reliable measuring tool given to mankind is the **Word of God**. When we measure the words of man by this standard, then we will get an accurate understanding of what is being said; provided that the person doing the measuring is using the standard of the Word of God in a righteous manner.

The first requirement for being able to use the Word of God in a righteous manner is OBEDIENCE to it. If a person is not being obedient to the Word of God, then proper understanding cannot ensure. Jesus teaches us this very concept.

### **John 7:17**

If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know the Teaching (Torah), whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself.

Notice the word translated 'Teaching'. The original word is 'Torah' which is the Word of God--the first five books of the Old Testament. Jesus is teaching us that it is the person who is willing to do, in other words, keep, observe, and OBEY the Torah--the Word of God, who will truly KNOW the Word of God.

### **James 1:22-23**

Keep on being obedient to the Word and not merely being hearers who deceive themselves. But if anyone who hears the Word but is not **obedient** to it, he is like a man who looks at himself in a mirror and studies himself carefully, and then goes off and immediately forgets what he looks like.

We can see this played out in our own rulers when they quote the Bible, but then pass laws that go against God's laws. [Give examples:](#)

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See, a person can read and study all they want of the Word of God, but if that person does not implement--**if they don't put into practice**--what they find in the Word of God, then what good has it done them? None! In fact, such a person would be better off not studying the Word of God at all if they are not going to DO what they learn from it! Once you know what the Word says then you are held accountable for obeying it. You can't claim 'ignorance' anymore.

As we study the written Word and learn what it means through our Teacher, Holy Spirit, we should apply and implement what He shows to us *immediately*. In this way He continues to build upon what we know and *do* to take us to greater heights--that next level of intimacy with our Lord.

What our God wants from us, His people is not simply obedience to the letter of the law, but that we would hear and obey His VOICE. If He would have wanted simple obedience to the letter of the law, then He would have given us a very detailed list of do's and don'ts. However, when we examine the Word of God we do not find this at all. What we find is great latitude within the majority of the commandments, statues and ordinances.

This is because what the Lord actually desires from each one of us is not for us to be robots, but rather to have a viable RELATIONSHIP with Him. How? By hearing His Voice and then OBEYING His Voice.

### **Jeremiah 7:23**

'but this thing I commanded them, saying, 'Hear and obey My Voice, and I will be your Elohim (God), and you shall be My people; and you walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'

It is at this very point, the point of hearing and obeying His Voice that we need to exist and live our everyday lives. It is at this point that we must cry out to our Master in the same way as Peter cried out to Him.

### **Matthew 14:28-29**

And Peter answered Him and said, "Master, if it be You, bid me to come to You upon the waters." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked upon the waters to come to Yeshua.

If we will but call out to Jesus and ask Him to call us to Himself, He will bid us to come to Him. But then it is up to us to get out of the boat and come to Him. This is not going to be easy for us to do as we are comfortable and safe in our own little man-made boat. It may even be on the verge of sinking, but it matters not. For this is where we feel safe and secure regardless of whether this is actually true or not. But what we may not perceive is that there is no real safety in the boat. The only real safety is walking with Jesus--out there on the water!

**If we are going to walk with Jesus, then we need to obey His call to us.**

We all grow weary from time to time of this world and all that is of this world. The world does everything in its power to bring us down and to keep us down. Jesus wants to lift us up out of all the mess, filth, degradation and sin that fills this world. But we must step out in faith and come to Him. In this world the storms of life rage around us. But in Jesus we will find a shelter in the time of storms; but we must come to Jesus.

## What does it mean to come to Jesus?

### **John 6:37-38**

All that which the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and him that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I am come down from Heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.

Just as Jesus came not to do His own will but the will of His Father, so too **Jesus sent us out into this world not to do our own will, but the will of Him who sent us.**

If we are going to actually have the courage to go out and do His will, then it is going to take being filled with His Spirit, for nothing else will suffice. The obedience that He asks from each of us is nothing short of complete. Complete obedience. Many would call this 'radical' obedience. Take this prophet as one example of complete obedience:

### **Isaiah 20:2-3**

At that time the Lord spoke to Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying 'Go, and loose the sackcloth from off your loins, and put your shoe from off your foot.' And he did so, walking naked and barefoot. And the Lord said, 'Like as My servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and a wonder concerning Egypt and concerning Ethiopia;'

Now a person's obedience doesn't get much more radical than this. I dare say that if a person did this today he would be quickly arrested and locked away in some institution. This is of course barring some kind of divine intervention that would prevent this from happening.

Actually, this is likely what happened in Isaiah's day when he did this very thing. I am sure that he offended many people, including the king, walking around butt-naked for three years, telling everyone that this was what the Lord was going to do to them unless they repented.

But when we are obedient to His Voice, regardless of what He tells us

to do, He will watch over us to see that we are able to do that which He has commanded. But we cannot fear man in doing it.

Our love for Jesus must be so complete that it does not matter what He tells us to do, **we do it**. We must never take into consideration what anyone else may think of us if we do what He tells us to do.

Not our parents, not our children, not our siblings or other relatives, not our friends or co-workers, not even the government. Never allow yourself to elevate anyone's opinion over and above what His Voice tells us to do.

**If we truly are going to be His disciples, then it is going to take radical obedience from us.**

Let me be very clear. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about ACTION. It's not about feelings. It's not about thoughts. It's not about knowledge--mental assent or mental agreement. NO! It's about action. Following Jesus is not saying a prayer of "I'm sorry, forgive me." and then continuing on with your life with no real change--no forsaking your ways for God's ways. It's about learning how God thinks and how He does things and then THINKING and DOING things HIS way.

When He says love--then love; when He says forgive--then forgive; when he says give--then give; when He says go--then go; when He says don't do that anymore--then stop it! Obey Him in everything His Voice tells you. He promises you that if you do, it will all be well with you!

Furthermore, within the body of Christ, we need to always and ever **support** this type of radical obedience to His Voice from each and every member of His Body.

When we begin to see such obedience, then we will see a miraculous out-pouring of His Spirit among His people! Instant obedience brings instant manifestation! Obey without delay!





Keep track, either mentally or in a journal, of the beneficial results of obedience in these areas and be prepared to testify and encourage your brothers and sisters.