**RCF Acts 4 1-21**

Those us of who are married- still remember your **honeymoon!** Picture of Sian and i enjoying a **cocktail on the beach**! Not us! This idyllic trouble free time away. Let you on a secret- Sian cried everyday on our honeymoon. But people talk of a honeymoon period **definition a period of popularity enjoyed by a new government, or a new occupant of a post.** Now you are going through of the book of Acts- and in the first 3 Chapters certainly described as the Church’s Honeymoon period. Day of Pentecost- Spirit comes down in Power- Peter preaches courageously thousands are saved- real sense of community and family. Chapter 3 last week- Jesus heals a crippled man through Peter and John and again the crowds come to see and Peter courageously preaches the Gospel and many respond. He courageously again follows Jesus command to go and make disciples as Jesus had commanded them to do and as Kurt reminded us last week- is still our calling today. But Chapter 4 signals the end of the honeymoon period- Not the end of the blessing, the growth the miracles- oh no there’s plenty more of that, **4But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.** but it signals the start of the opposition to the ministry of the apostles and work of the church. An opposition which continues to this day.

**Read v 1-7**

Crippled man miraculously healed, Whilst Peter is in full flow the temple Guards Seized Peter and John. Why? V2 **2They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.**The religious leaders did not like this talk about Jesus. Luke tells us in v 6 that they were the ones who had Jesus crucified only a few weeks earlier and to Peter proclaim that he was raised from the dead greatly disturbed them. Luke tells us in v 1 they were Sadducees, didn’t believe in life after death so they hatted any talk of resurrection! Do you think this opposition came as a surprise to Peter and John? I suspect as they were grabbed by the guards and thrown into a dark cold prison that the words of Jesus from the last supper were ringing in their ears. **33“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** Jesus never promised his disciples and easy time- one long honeymoon period- but he did promise His peace, he promised he was in control and had one the victory and promised to always be with us. Do you still get surprised when hard things happen? Or when there is opposition to us talking about Jesus and his work. Don’t be! But also, don’t despair. Did Peter and John in the prison start wallowing in self-pity!? They are brought out of the prision and asked **“By what power or what name did you do this?”** How is Peter going to respond to their threats and intimidation?

**Read v 8-22**

What struck me was the transformation in Peter. Where all use to before and after pictures! You have your own living example- here in **Kurt!** But not to be out done by RCF, CYB has our own version **Jack N!!** But that is nothing compared to Peter. Only a few weeks ago- **a little servant girl** asked him in front of the fire- You are one of those Jesus lot!- and he swear blindly that he doesn’t even know him. But now- the religious leaders and soldiers are threatening him, have thrown him in Prison. How does he react- he boldly declares Jesus to them! Why is he so **different?**- Look at verses **8 to 12 again**- discuss why?

What caused the transformation and gave Peter the boldness and guts to stand up to the opposition?

**1st 8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit,.** First reason-**Holy Spirit given Courage**. filled with the Spirit. Jesus Gave him the power he had promised them **You shall recieve power!** The same power that raised Jesus from the dead filled Peter and gave him boldness and the same power is in us! Believe it? Want it? need more of this? I do- pray for more! Oh how different we would be and his church if we lived out of this God given power and courage Do we live like this or like our phones- **Low power mode?** ?**pray.** How would your life be different?

**2nd Confidence in Jesus.** When Peter denied Jesus- Jesus was about to be crucified. Peter was confused not knowing what was going to happen to Jesus. But now listen to Peter in v **10then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.**

Peter has seen Jesus being tortured and killed but then seen the empty tomb, seen him alive, had breakfast with him, talked with him- he has seen him go up to Heaven, he knows Jesus has conquered death and is Lord over all. He knows Jesus is with him. That gives you courage- The risen Jesus is not a figment of his imagination- he knows he’s alive. Certain. Gives you courage- knows one day he will be with him. So he can declare boldly in v **12Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”** Bold statement! Not popular in our pluralistic culture- any way to God is ok. Peter has seen Jesus suffer and die to saves up- not an optional extra- only way! Do we believe this? No really believe this? Should affect our lives. ?Convinced Jesus only way to God- Convinced he is alive and with us? How should it affect our lives if we really believed v 12 Discuss.

I want my life to be transformed like Peter- full of Holy spirit Power and courage and unshakable confidence in Jesus. Lord do this in my heart- people notice. Lives around me are changed. People notice They noticed Peter and John **13When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.** The looked at Peter and John-What did they see- Courage and they were amazed! Just very ordinary fisherman, no qualification, no theology degree- so why so courageous and bold- the only thing they could think of was- they had been with Jesus. When people look at our lives what do they see. ?Courage and Christ like qualities. What do you want people to see when they look at your life?

**Pray** Don’t want to just be a talk- and not change, Holy Spirit courage, confidence in Jesus