



ALL IN

Week 4 | The Risk of All In

| KEY THOUGHTS

- Boldness in sharing the gospel is not confidence in myself, but recognition that on my own, I can accomplish nothing of significance. But if I know God is at work in and through me, **I can be confident in what He will accomplish.**
- God doesn't ask everyone to preach, but **God does invite every single disciple to tell others about who Jesus is**—and He empowers each of us to do so.
- **Talking about Jesus can be risky.**
- The priests and Sadducees were angry with Peter and John for teaching about the Jesus's resurrection in the temple, because the temple was their turf, and the resurrection destroyed their power structure. **Sin—the desire to be in charge—is always the core issue when people object to the gospel being preached.**
- **The Holy Spirit empowered Peter and John with a supernatural boldness.**
- The disciples knew God was in control; everything that would happen was all part of God's plan, and they trusted Him for the outcome.
- God is in control over open doors, and over closed doors. He's sovereign when we are successful, and when things blow up in our face. **We can always trust Him!**
- The gospel is offensive because it reveals us to ourselves, exposing the core of who we are and saying, "You're not as good as you think." **It's risky to share that level of truth**; we're more comfortable talking about things that don't matter, like the weather or sports.
- **When disciples share the gospel, people come to faith.**

| SCRIPTURE

¹ And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 4:1-2 (ESV)

¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶ saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

Acts 4:15-16 (ESV)

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...

Acts 4:8 (ESV)

But when you are arrested and stand trial, don't worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Mark 13:11 (NLT)

²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord... ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

Acts 4:24-38 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

When you're unable to share the gospel because of fear, pray and walk through the gospel in your own life:

- Ask yourself three questions, and answer them according to how you feel when fear paralyzes you:
 - Who am I? *Afraid. I can't do this. I'll look like a fool.*
 - What has God done? *Based on the above, He's asked me to do something I can't do. He's going to let me fail.*
 - Who is God? *Based on the previous conclusions: God is absent. He doesn't care about me. He's not able to work through me.*
- Now ask those same questions but in reverse order:
 - Who is God? *Sovereign over everything. He is good. He has a plan.*
 - What has God done? *Jesus died for me, was humiliated for me, became a fool for me. He's equipped me with everything I need to talk about Jesus.*
 - Who am I? *I'm loved. Through Christ, I can tell others about Jesus even when I'm afraid.*
- Which of those scenarios do you really believe?
- Expose the lies you've bought into and confess them to be lies; repent of following these false beliefs; and confess the truth that God reveals through the scriptures. Then live in the truth!

| REFLECT

- The disciples trusted God's leadership, and even asked to be used as part of His plan. Consider how different that is from doing your own thing and asking God to bless it.
- When talking to people about Jesus, we run the risk that someone will get angry and reject the gospel. But we also run the risk that someone will say Yes, and their lives will be changed forever. Isn't that worth the risk?
- Do you think the person who shared the gospel with you was nervous about it at the time? Aren't you glad they trusted God and did it anyway?
- Fear, depression, and anxiety are among the many fruits of sin, as they result from believing lies about who God is and who I am. When these fruits afflict me, I can confess my sin of believing the lies and be freed from them as I follow the truth of God's character and His power.

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