

The Right Time to Stand

- **Day One – Read Acts 4:1-31; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15**

The response of Peter and John, when told by the religious leaders to “be quiet about Jesus” was **Acts 4:20** (NIV) ²⁰ “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” We don’t want to be arrogant or pushy, but do you think we should/could be speaking about Jesus more than we do? Can you foresee the day when it might be illegal? What does this mean?

HP **+ CP** **+ CC** **= MI**
high potency close proximity clear communication maximum impact

Where might you improve for “maximum impact?”

Pray and ask God to help you stand up for what you believe.

- **Day Two – Read Acts 2:44-45; 4:36-37; 1 John 3:16-18; James 2:14-17.**

The believers in Jerusalem were very generous. There was a culture of compassion. Barnabas was doing what it seemed everyone else was – helping those in need. How is our love for God connected to our love for people?

Pray -Ask God to help you see and respond to people in need in a healthy way.

- **Day Three – Read Acts 5:1-5; Joshua 7; 22:20.**

The point of this story is not how much they gave, but how much they led others to believe they gave. On one hand God’s judgment on Ananias and Sapphira seemed overly harsh. How do we see God’s love in it? On the other hand, we can understand how God would want to warn his people about the dangers of hidden sin on his people individually and collectively. Where are you sometimes tempted to compromise your character? Is there hidden sin that you need to confess and repent from?

Pray - Ask God to help you build and protect your character by living with transparency and honesty. Confess any known sin to God. Ask for strength to live in purity and truth.

New Life Lessons
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Pastor Ron Salsbury

“The Right Time to Stand”

A .D. Series #4

Acts 3:1-10; 4:1-23, 36-37; 5:1-11; 6:5

Acts 4:1-14 (NIV) ¹ The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest’s family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then 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.

¹¹ He is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone”. ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

¹³ When 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. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

The Right Time to Stand

1. When Our Commitment is at stake.

Acts 4:18-20 (NIV) ¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰ For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 1:8; Luke 12:11-12

Acts 4:23-24a (NIV) ²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ^{24a} When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

Acts 4:29 (NIV) ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Matthew 28:16-20; Colossians 4:2-4

Acts 4:31 (NIV) ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Ephesians 5:18b-20

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV) ⁹ You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:15-21; Romans 1:16; Luke 9:26

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1 Peter 3:15 (MSG) ¹⁵ Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Colossians 4:6; John 1:14b

2. When Our Compassion is at stake.

Acts 4:36-37 (NIV) ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 2:44-45 (NIV) ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Acts 11:25; 15:39-40; Colossians 3:12; James 2:14-17

1 John 3:16-18 (NLT) ¹⁶ We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

3. When Our Character is at stake.

Acts 5:1-5 (NIV) ¹ Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." ⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Achan's sin Joshua 7; 22:20; 1 Chronicles 2:7; Amos 5:21-24; Psalm 50:7-15; Isaiah 58:1-12

1 John 1:8-9 (NLT) ⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. Luke 9:26