

Wednesday in the Word
@Wheat Street Baptist Church
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Acts 4:23

²³ As soon as Peter and John had been set free, they went back and told the others everything that the chief priests and the leaders had said to them.

Why would Peter and John go back and who did they tell?

Do you have anyone like Peter and John in your corner?

Acts 4:24 When the rest of the Lord's followers heard this, they prayed together and said:

Prayer is an act of humility.

Where did the followers learn how to pray?

Luke 11:1 When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us how to pray, just as Jon taught his followers to pray."

What questions have you been asking God? The most important aspect of any and every relationship is communication. The Lenten season is upon us, fasting and denial without discipleship is just a low budget weight-watchers. Sacrifice must be coupled to meditation and spiritual reflection.

Luke 9:23 If any person come after me, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross daily, and follow me.

There is patience in persistence

³⁶ Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. When they got there, he told them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

³⁷ Jesus took along Peter and the two brothers, James and John. He was very sad and troubled, ³⁸ and he said to them, "I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay

here and keep awake with me.”³⁹ Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, don’t make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want.”

⁴⁰ He came back and found his disciples sleeping. So he said to Peter, “Can’t any of you stay awake with me for just one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you won’t be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak.”

⁴² Again Jesus went to pray and said, “My Father, if there is no other way, and I must suffer, I will still do what you want.” ⁴³ Jesus came back and found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open. ⁴⁴ He left them and prayed the same prayer once more. ⁴⁵ Finally, Jesus returned to his disciples and said, “Are you still sleeping and resting? The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up! Let’s go. The one who will betray me is already here.”

*** Notice that the same people who failed to stay awake in Matthew 26 are the same people who lead the prayer in Acts 4.

What would have happened in Jesus gave up on Peter and John?

What is the idea, area in your life, or the person that you have given up on prematurely?

Acts 4: 24 con’t

Master, you created heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ And by the Holy Spirit you spoke to our ancestor David.

Why would an omniscient God who was there in the beginning need to be reminded of what God did in the beginning of time?

When you pray, reminding God of who God is and how God operates is not for God, perhaps that reminder is for you? Luke 11:2 So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

He was your servant, and you told him to say:

“Why are all the Gentiles so furious? Why do people make foolish plans? ²⁶ The kings of earth prepare for war, and the rulers join together against the Lord and his Messiah.”

The first question after the dust has settled from a traumatic experience is WHY?

What happens when silence is not a sufficient answer?

Acts ²⁷ Here in Jerusalem, Herod and Pontius Pilate got together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel. Then they turned against your holy Servant Jesus, your chosen Messiah. ²⁸ They did what you in your power and wisdom had already decided would happen.

²⁹ Lord, listen to their threats! We are your servants. So make us brave enough to speak your message. ³⁰ Show your mighty power, as we heal people and work miracles and wonders in the name of your holy Servant Jesus.

³¹ After they had prayed, the meeting place shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and bravely spoke God's message.

What needs to be shaken in your life?

³² The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other. ³³ In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed his followers, ³⁴ and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money ³⁵ to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone who needed it.

³⁶⁻³⁷ Joseph was one of the followers who had sold a piece of property and brought the money to the apostles. He was a Levite from Cyprus, and the apostles called him Barnabas, which means "one who encourages others."