

“THE BENEFITS OF BOLDNESS” (ACTS 4)

READING: MARK 16:20

“...the Lord working with them, and confirmed the word by the signs following”

INTRODUCTION:

It is always interesting to see rulers becoming annoyed because others are being taught about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead. One would assume that the leaders of the Jews were relieved to know that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, dead and buried, but now these apostles are teaching people that Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God, and that through faith in His name, they performed this miracle. Everyone in Jerusalem could see that this was a genuine miracle and no one could deny it

DISCUSSION:

The incident of the curing of the man born a cripple, the rage of the Jewish leaders and the apostles can be compared to a court case.

- a) The plaintiff would be the high priest and his entourage
- b) The defendants would be the apostles Peter and John
- c) The exhibit would be the man who was healed
- d) The charge against the apostles would be that they taught the people that in the name of Jesus (by His authority), the resurrection from the dead, and proved it by healing a man, who everyone knew to be a cripple from birth.

Peter further accused the Jewish leaders of rejecting someone whom God expressly chose to be the cornerstone of the Jewish nation. (1 Peter 2:6-8)

Peter and John were truly brave and boldly made a very serious accusation, despite being not very educated, but having the necessary evidence to back up the case. The Jewish leaders understood that they must have received their boldness from having been with and taught by Jesus.

The best minds in the Jewish leadership conferred and then concluded that because of the fact that most Jews were delighted that the crippled man was healed, the leadership decided to simply give the apostles a warning.

The result was, that Peter and John as well as the rest of the saints glorified God. (which also coincided perfectly with inspired prophecy)

CONCLUSION:

One would have expected the Christians to pray to God not to have them experience a similar “unpleasant” situation, but no, they were happy about the encounter and rather asked for more opportunities and strength to have more such opportunities. The apostles and the rest of the saints are willing to venture further in challenging the Jewish leadership and expose them and others, with boldness, to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Are you willing to speak up for Jesus?