

“The Values of FLC: Prayer”

Acts 4:1-31

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

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

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

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 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. ¹¹Jesus is

*“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.”*

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

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. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

¹⁶“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked.

“Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

²¹After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

The Believers Pray

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

*““Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?*

*²⁶The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.’*

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹After 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.

“The Values of FLC: Prayer”

“We do nothing until we pray and make prayer an integral part of our plan and ministry. Through prayer, we surrender our lives to God and discern His perfect will for us.”

We do nothing 'til we pray isn't just a slogan but a lifestyle.

“When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.”
(Acts 4:24)

1. CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

“And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” (Ps. 50:15)

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.”
(Jer. 29:12)

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” (Jer. 33:3)

What does “we do nothing until we pray” look like in our church?

What does “we do nothing until we pray” look like in our home?

What does “we do nothing until we pray” look like in our workplace?

2. CRY OUT FOR GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders thru the name of your holy servant Jesus.” (Acts 4:29-30)

“Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.... To you, Lord, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy.” (Ps. 30:2-3, 8)

3. CONTINUE IN PRAYER, THANKS, DISCERNMENT

“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.” (Acts 4:31)

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Col. 4:2)