

The Witness Priority: Prayer
Text: Acts 4:23-31
February 25, 2023

Big Idea: Because our witness depends on God, prayer must be our priority.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) Does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Question #5

- a) Why does our witness ultimately depend on God?
- b) If it depends on Him, then what is our responsibility in witness?
- c) What steps can you take this week to grow in prayer as your priority in your witness?
- d) Spend time as a group praying for one another and calling on the Lord for fruitfulness in witness.

The prayer of a faithful witness...

Point 1: RECOGNIZES God's POSITION: "You're in control Lord!" (vv. 23-28)

Question: The witness prayer declares God's sovereignty. Will you trust Him and submit?

Question #6

- a) **Rd. vv. 23-28:** What was the disciples' prayer rooted in?
- b) What does it mean that God is the "Sovereign Lord"?
- c) What confidence should God's character and position give us in our witness? Why?
- d) Why is basing our prayers upon the character and position of God essential for faithful witness?
- e) What fruits come from not trusting in the character, power and position of God in our witness?
- f) What situation(s) do you find it most difficult to trust in God's sovereignty in your witness?
- g) Spend time in prayer asking for increasing faith in the Lord's sovereignty & power in your witness.

The prayer of a faithful witness...

Point 2: REQUESTS God's POWER: "I need You Lord!" (vv. 29-30)

Question: The witness prayer asks for God's power. Will you stand firm and ask Him?

Question #7

- a) **Rd vv. 29-30:** What two things do the believers pray for in the face of the opposition against them?
- b) How did this prayer reveal their missional mindset?
- c) If not the same things, what would you be tempted to pray for if you were in their situation? Why?
- d) How does the gospel empower you to overcome those things, and pray boldly for your witness? Share Scripture verses with one another for this.
- e) Think of a situation(s) God has you in right now. Spend time in prayer with your accountability group for speaking His Word boldly in it, and asking God to work through it as He sees fit.

Question #8

- a) **Rd. v. 29:** What does it mean to speak boldly?
- b) Along with boldness, how must we speak in our witness to love those we are speaking to like Jesus does?

The prayer of a faithful witness...

Point 3: RECEIVES God's PROVISION: "Let's go Lord!" (v. 31)

Question: God answers prayer to witness. Will you trust Him and speak boldly?

Question #9

- a) **Rd. v. 31:** How did God answer the believers' prayers?
- b) How could they know that God would answer their prayer in His time/way (Hint: John 15:7-8)?
- c) How did the believers respond after they prayed? How did God respond (Acts 5:12)?

Question #10

Write out your own 'witness prayer' based off Acts 23-31.

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of Acts 4:23-31. Some prompts are below.

- a) **ADORATION:** God, I worship You, because You are_____
- b) **CONFESSION:** Lord, I repent of...i) My unbelief that You are_____ ii) My unwillingness to be faithful in witness in_____ iii) My lack of prayer in_____
- c) **THANKSGIVING:** Father, thank you for Your....
- d) **SUPPLICATION:** Lord, I ask you for...i) Boldness in_____ ii) Your work in the life of_____

Memory Verse:

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,"-Acts 4:12

