

October 9, 2011

Willow Park South
Small Group Questions
Acts 4:23-31

- Please read *Acts 4:23-31* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

After Peter and John were released from prison, “they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them” (Acts 4:23 ESV). When Paul’s community heard this, they were shaken and immediately proclaimed a prayer to God.

What does it mean to have your life be shaken? In our modern culture, what does it look like for someone to have the foundations of their life shaken?

Have you had a time when your life was completely shaken? How did you respond?

Why do you think the early Christians were shaken by Peter and John’s account?

What stands out to you most about the Christian’s prayer? Why does it stand out to you?

In verses 27-28, the Christians prayed “for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place” (ESV). Though they were shaken by their situation, they still acknowledged that God was sovereign through all of it.

Do you, like the early Christians, acknowledge that God is in control of your tough situations?

Why do you think declaring God’s sovereignty increased the Christian’s trust in God?

How can acknowledging God’s control over your situations help you not be shaken by them?

The Christians declared in verse 29, “and now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness” (ESV). Instead of praying for a change of circumstances, they prayed for boldness in the midst of their situation.

Is it more fruitful or more detrimental to go through a trial that shakes the foundation of your life? How does your attitude determine the fruitfulness of the outcome?

Why do you think God, who loves us immensely, puts us through persecution/trials?

Can you think of anyone within our church who's faith was strong through a tough time of their life? What allowed them to persevere and hold onto Christ during their tough season?

How did Jesus' sacrifice allow us to build our lives on something that can never be shaken?

God is most glorified in us when we most satisfied in Him. When we place our identity in Christ's sacrificial work on the cross, our foundation will remain unshakable in tough situations. For if we build our lives upon the Father's love, shown for us by sending His son to restore our relationship with Him, we can boldly declare with Paul *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:38-39 ESV). Through this declaration we are able find our peace and joy in the midst of any situation.