

## Context

- 1] Peter and John, after the coming of the Holy spirit, healed a lame man (3:1 -10)
- 2] He told pilgrims to repent (3:19) of denying & killing the ‘Holy and righteous one (3:14f)
- 3] They were hauled before the anxious rulers and boldly declare that ‘there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved’ (4:12).
- 4] They were threatened further and then thrown out. (3:17ff)

## The report (23)

***23 When they were released, they went to their friends***

*I.e. from the full Sanhedrin (3:5)*

*To Apostles, women and family (1:13,14)*

***and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.***

*I.e. do not speak or teach in Jesus’ name (4:18)*

*Further threats... (21)*

*\*Keep prayerful friends informed.\**

## The response (24-28)

***24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God***

*nb Unusual phrase. Expresses anguish (Jn 21:2; Ruth 1:9,14*

*\*Note – the first response to threat (of any kind) is prayer to God\**

***And said "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,***

*I.e. they acknowledged His power and right – as creator*

*cf Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 146:6, Isaiah 42:5*

*\* The Lord is the maker (owner) of heaven and earth (G)\**

***25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,***

*I.e. God foretold of the opposition of the world*

*Cf You spoke by the Holy Spirit through...David (Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Tim 3:16)*

*\*God speaks through men, by His Holy spirit, in Scripture \**

***"Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—***

*Nb ‘Anointed’ (= Heb ‘Messiah’)*

*Cf Psalm 2:2c, 6*

\*Note – All resistance to the will of God is futile\*

**27 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, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.**

*I.e. fulfilled in Jesus – conspiracy of all mankind - Gentile and Jew*

*nb Holy = set apart by God*

*servant = Gk Pais – child, in relation to parents. May mean servant (Mt 8:6) - more intimate than ‘slave’*

*nb ‘anointed one’. Gk = Christ, Hebrew = Messiah*

\*God determines the future\*

\*Note - the whole world is against God’s anointed – Jesus\*

## **The prayer (29,30)**

**29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,**

*Cf boldness (4:13)*

*nb not ‘fire from heaven’ (Lk 9:54)*

\*GRACE - God enables / empowers His servant to do His Work\*

**30 “while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”**

*Cf signs and wonders (5:12)*

\*God performs signs and wonders through the name of His holy servant Jesus\*

## **The answer (31)**

**31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken,**

\*Note – spiritual events may have physical manifestations.\*

**and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and**

*cf filled with the Holy Spirit (2:4; 4:8)*

\*Be being filled with the Holy Spirit\* (cf Eph 5:18)

**continued to speak the word of God with boldness.**

*Cf Hebrews 4:12*

\*Continue to speak the word with boldness\*

## **Conclusion**

1] When faced with difficult situations

a) Start by looking to the Lord and praising Him

- b) Then present your requests seeking His glory  
2] Seek the Holy Spirit to fill you with boldness to speak the Word of God.

**MP** *Lord, the world is against us. Empower us to speak your word boldly as you perform wonders in Jesus' name.*

**KV** *And now Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your name with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal and signs and wonders are performed through the Holy name of your servant Jesus. (29,30)*

What surprises or confuses you?

29 *They have just been extremely bold, but now they are asking for boldness?  
They ask for boldness as they rely on God to give them courage and they 'leak'!*

- 3) Give an overall 'picture' of the passage in a few sentences.

*They went and told their friends what the leaders had said ((23)*

*They all appealed to the Lord as He ruled supremely and had foretold through David that He and His Messiah would be rejected (24-26)*

*That is what happened with the rejection of Jesus which was all in God's plan (27,28)*

*They prayed that God would make them bold as He performed signs and wonders. (29,30)*

*Then the building shook, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they continued to boldly speak the Word of God (31)*