

40 Days of Prayer & Devotion to Easter

Day 20

Easter is an exciting time of year and it's always a wonderful time of celebration at Lenexa Baptist Church. We celebrate the incredible gift that God has shared with us. That gift has a name, and His name is Jesus. Unfortunately, that name is not celebrated by many people in our world today.

In Acts chapter 5, we read about another celebration that was going on as it was a time when the Gospel was spreading like wildfire, and the excitement that goes along with seeing people come to Christ had lit a fire in the apostles. They were determined to make the most of every opportunity, to preach the Word and to speak the name of Jesus with anyone and everyone. But just like today, for some people, Jesus' name resulted in resentment, rejection and fear. In fact the apostles found themselves in direct conflict with the religious leaders of that day, as ultimately Peter and the others were arrested as the opposition tried to lock down this whole Jesus movement before it got out of control. The Pharisees got physical with the apostles and commanded them to stop teaching, stop preaching and they demanded that they no longer speak His name at all. But despite their opposition, these men refused to comply as they embraced their calling and continued to boldly speak that powerful name, Jesus. You see when you're truly on fire for the Lord, nothing can slow you down and nothing will keep you from speaking the name of Jesus.

Today in some parts of the world speaking His name will result in a beating or perhaps worse, you could lose your life. In America, it's a name that creates controversy, but it's rare that we are threatened physically because of our faith. More often than not, when we don't speak His name, it's because we have put limitations on ourselves. We're too concerned that someone might be offended or that someone will ask questions that we can't answer. To truly live outward, we all have to get beyond our own fears and hesitations and look for every opportunity to boldly speak the name of Jesus to everyone we meet.

This Easter season, let's speak up and speak out with love to our neighbors, our friends, our families and even to our co-workers. Let's be determined to have the same energy and determination that Peter and the apostles had and let's let the power of His name speak for itself as we look ahead toward the celebration of Easter Sunday 2024.

– Pastor Kelly Hughes

And every day, in
the temple and
from house to
house, they kept
right on teaching
and preaching
Jesus as the
Christ.

– Acts 5:42

