

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Acts 4:8-13](#).
- B. This is Literacy Sunday in this country and September is Literacy month.
- C. As important as being able to read and write is in our country there is something even more important.
- D. That is the ingredient that Peter and John had: they had been with Jesus.
- E. We don't need an education or special training to be a spiritual success, we just need to let Jesus take a hold of our life.

## I. AN OLD TESTAMENT FLASHBACK.

- A. When we think of a man who was a powerful preacher for God who did not have any training or education in preaching, Amos comes to mind (Amos 7:12-16).
- B. Amos had a right to speak because he had an appointment with God. And it was because of God's power not his own, that he could preach (Amos 3:3-8; esp. v8).
- C. This important thing is to preach what has been commanded and nothing more or nothing less (2Tim. 4:1-2).
- D. If it amazes us at the ability of Amos to convict men of their sin, it is by the same power (God's) that Peter and John amazed the men of the Sanhedrin.

## II. POWERFUL IN DEED.

- A. Peter and John had powers that we do not have today. They had these special powers for the same reason they did other things: they had been with Jesus (Lk. 9:1; 24:49; Ac. 3:6; 4:8-10).
- B. The power to do miraculous deeds passed within the first century (1Cor. 13:9,10).
- C. Even their critics could not deny the miracle that took place (Ac. 4:16).
- D. Our lesson is that we can do what we think impossible (that short of miraculous) when we let Jesus live in us (Phil. 4:13).

## III. POWERFUL IN PREACHING.

- A. Peter and John commanded attention because of their message as well as their works (Ac. 4:33).
- B. We too can be powerful in our preaching because of what we preach. Not our wisdom that comes by education and training, but the word of God, that comes from Jesus Christ (His gospel).
- C. The word is powerful; it is God's dynamite (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12; Eph. 3:7).
- D. True wisdom comes from God, and is revealed in the Bible. Dr. William Lyon Phelps has said, "I would rather have knowledge of the Bible without a college education, than a college education without knowledge of the Bible."

## IV. POWERFUL IN A CHANGED LIFE.

- A. Words can hurt, and damage, but actions often speak louder.
- B. It was the changed life and attitudes of Peter and John that was the most apparent.
- C. Truly Paul shocked the Jewish community with his conversion to Christianity, and the reason/proof of his conversion is his changed life (Phil. 3:6-8).
- D. No one was able to meet with Jesus and afterwards, not be a different person:
  - 1. The rich young ruler (Mk. 10:17-22).
  - 2. Zaccheus (Lk. 19:1-10).
  - 3. All of the apostles; e.g., the calling of Matthew (Mt. 9:9).
  - 4. Others too numerous to mention here.
- E. Even within my lifetime I know of certain individuals that I never thought would become Christians, only to become the best of saints.

- F. And the reason for an indestructible life is that God is behind it. Look at the wisdom of Gamaliel (Ac. 5:33-40a).

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. All of the strength that came to Peter and John was from God, because they had been with JC.
- B. It does not take great wisdom or training to be acceptable to God, just obedience.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.