

SERMON STUDY NOTES

15th August 2021
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

The Fear of Stepping out. Reading Acts 4:8-32

1. v13 *And when they saw the courage of Peter and John, they realised that they were unschooled ordinary men (uneducated nonprofessionals LB), they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.* How often do we as believers astonish the world these days? Have you ever done anything for Christ that astonished people?
2. Here were 2 uneducated, ignorant fishermen, who stood out, clear & decisive for God. What sort of excuses do we make for our lack of effectiveness for God?
3. Peter had denied Christ by saying '*I don't know the man*'. The disciple John: was known as the *disciple that Jesus loved*. We think of him as being quiet & gentle. So how do we explain this change in their character & ability? v8. Have you had this experience? How did it change you?

4. Our lives can be like a house on a sunny morning, some rooms bright & sunny, while others are dark & cold. Parts of our lives are sunny with God's presence: others are like a chilly, cold night. What are some of the sunny & dark rooms in your house? (metaphorically)
5. Guilt & condemnation make us fearful of confessing Christ. We may think *'I'm a hopeless Christian: How could God possibly use me?'* What would people think & say if they knew that I was a Christian? Discuss.
6. Revelation 12:10 *Satan the accuser of our brothers, accused them day and night before the throne of God. They overcome Satan by the word of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.* If we do nothing because we feel inadequate, then we're assisting Satan's in his work. Our confession and testimony breaks Satan's stronghold of fear and oppression and sets us free. Discuss.
7. 2 Tim 3:12 *all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.* Have you ever been persecuted for your faith?
8. Sometimes an event in our life can fast track our spiritual growth & development. See Acts 13:8-11. Share an event in your spiritual life that brought about growth and change.
9. Is there a step that you know the Lord is wanting you to take that you are resisting? **PRAY FOR EACH OTHER.**