

Daily Devotional for Jan. 17-23, 2021

As soon as Peter and John were let go, they went to their friends and told them what the high priests and religious leaders had said. Hearing the report, they lifted their voices in a wonderful harmony in prayer:

“Strong God, you made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. By the Holy Spirit you spoke through the mouth of your servant and our father, David: (Psalm 2:1,2)

Why the big noise, nations?
Why the mean plots, peoples?
Earth’s leaders push for position,
Potentates meet for summit talks,
The God-deniers, the Messiah-defiers!

“For in fact they did meet—Herod and Pontius Pilate with nations and peoples, even Israel itself!—met in this very city to plot against your holy Son Jesus, the One you made Messiah, to carry out the plans you long ago set in motion. And now they’re at it again! Take care of their threats and give your servants fearless confidence in preaching your Message, as you stretch out your hand to us in healings and miracles and wonders done in the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God’s Word with fearless confidence. Acts 4:23-31 (*The Message*)

Sunday, Jan. 17

What questions do you have from the sermon?

Can I get a witness?

With whom did you share some good news this week?

Spend some time praying for that person or persons.



Did you receive any insights?

With whom would you like to share some good news next week? Spend some time praying for an opportunity and open hearts.

Holy God, as we begin a new week with You, we ask for open hearts, open eyes, and open mouths. Teach us what You would have us learn as we study Your Word, pray and look and listen for Your presence. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

A song for you to sing this week, and/or find online!

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden
dreams;

I love to tell the story, it did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully
sweet;

I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy
Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the
rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new
song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so
long.

Monday, Jan. 18

Read Acts 4:23-31 out loud. What words or phrases
catch your attention?

Did you notice anything different from yesterday?



Painting by Jan van 't Hoff in Gospelimages

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Imagine yourself as one of the 1st-century believers. What do you think your response might have been, after hearing the threats made by the religious leaders?

What prayer might you have prayed?

God in Plain Sight(ings)

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Saturday, Jan. 23

What insights did you receive from spending the week in this text?

What truth from God's Word has been most impactful?

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Describe a time when you spoke 'with fearless confidence' about something.

What was the response?

How did you feel afterwards?

Thursday, Jan. 21

Spend some time thinking/writing/praying about your apostolic call to bear witness to Jesus.

Friday, Jan. 22

Meditate on the prayer of the apostles and then pray it out loud.

Holy God, give me fearless confidence in sharing Your Message, as You stretch out Your hand to me in healings and miracles and wonders done in the name of Your holy servant Jesus.

Now pray it on behalf of the staff and officers of FPC.

Heavenly Father, give Your servants fearless confidence in preaching, teaching and sharing Your Message, as You stretch out Your hand to us in healings and miracles and wonders done in the name of Your holy servant Jesus.