

Spring Semester 2018 – Praying for boldness – Read Acts 4:23-31

*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

Dear Friends & Family of True North,

If we were to take a poll this week, how many of you would jump at the chance to get rejected? It could be with a scholarship application, a job application, or an invite for a get together. Or, maybe even, asking a specific person out on a date. If you're like me, rejection is not one of those activities that I find very fun. It means someone doesn't want you. It means someone doesn't want to do something with or for you. It means there is something else more important than whatever it is you are presenting.

For the early church, we hear about some early rejection directed towards them. Peter and John stood trial before the Jewish leaders and they return reporting everything that happened because of their preaching. When you read through the reaction of the early church, we thank the Lord for the wisdom he gave them. They went to him in prayer. They asked him for boldness. They asked him to stretch out his hand and bless their work.

The above verse shows us the Lord's answer. He gave them the boldness needed to speak God's Word. Thinking about that, they were in an environment hostile to Christianity. We are too. At the present time, we may not have to worry about risking life and limb like the early church did, but we do face possible rejection. Rejection for many is scary. Rejection is a common reaction. We learn from this early church the importance of prayer. We learn from this early church the importance of trusting the Lord. The Lord answered their prayers. He gave them the boldness to speak of his work to those they encountered. As they did that, they were not alone. Jesus was with them. In the same way, when we ask the Lord for boldness, he's ready to give it. He does in fact give it. We're entering a time of year where the heart of the gospel – the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Savior is celebrated. For True North, we will have the opportunity to invite the campus of the U of M to join us for Good Friday and Easter. For St. John's we'll have the same opportunity as we go into our community and invite those we know who don't go to God's house regularly. We ask the Lord for the boldness to invite others to join us and to tell them about our Savior from sin. The Lord's blessings these next two weeks! True Northerners have a safe and blessed Spring Break.

Pastor Lindner

