

## **ACTS-traordinary: The Havoc of Heaven (Acts 3 – 4:22)**

Here we have an account of the 2 “rails” of the life of faith that we have been talking about:

- The fingerprints of God . . . God (thru Peter) does a supernatural work of healing in a lame beggar of forty years!
- The human struggles of life in this world . . . Peter and John are arrested, jailed overnight, and severely reprimanded by the High Priest.

When God moves with power, it always leaves a wake - a GOOD wake (for all that God does is for good) but quite often a DISRUPTIVE wake to our familiar, comfortable lives. . . . things were all astir after the beggar was healed as he danced around and proclaimed his miraculous healing, and Peter and John were suddenly the center of all this excitement and commotion (which led to another opportunity to preach the gospel, and many were saved).

But when God moves, so does our enemy of darkness. He brings a disruptive wake of his own! . . . deception, distortion, and destruction. To be sure, his wake brings disruption, even suffering into our comfortable lives. . . . almost as suddenly, Peter and John find themselves arrested and in jail.

God's power is bigger than us. We cannot manage it. We cannot safely control the Holy Spirit.

God's power and life bring DISRUPTION. Heaven brings havoc.

We can attempt to live safely, guarding against the wild stirrings of God in our lives, and maintaining a sense of comfort and control, but we will end up with dead religion OR

We can humbly surrender to the will and power of God in our lives and brave the disruptions with faith and courage, and in this place know the life and fullness of His presence!

May we be open to the calls and stirrings of God like our dear brother and sister – Eliecer and Carolyes Lopez - Who have said, even with all the disruptions and losses, “here we are, Lord, so send us to proclaim your gospel in Caracas!”

Let's remember them regularly in our prayers.

Reflections:

1. What personal comforts do you fear losing, if you surrender to the wake of God's purposes in your life?
2. What sufferings do you fear encountering in the wake of God's stirring in your life?
3. When, in your life, have you experienced the disruptive stirring of God or the enemy? How did it unfold? In the end, did you experience the deepening fullness of God in your life, OR were you left with questions and confusion?

In closing, I remind us of our own CCC mission statement - - “To aWAKE ordinary people to extraordinary life in Christ-centered community”

Billy