



Church: The way it was meant to be A Spirit Filled Church

Big Idea: The Church was meant to be a Spirit-Filled community where we are empowered by real worship to engage a real world.

Opening Question: What is the most significant that has happened to you in the past week?

Discussion Questions

This passage follows on directly from last week's look at Peter and John's interaction with the Sanhedrin. They are released from prison and return to their own people. This passage helps give us an insight into how Peter and John deal with the intersection of life and faith.

1. What were the realities of Peter and John's situation in Acts 4:23? What did they feel like, look like and even smell like?
2. What was their immediate action upon release?
3. Upon hearing the report of Peter and John, the gathered believers respond in prayer to God. Let's explore their prayer together:
 - a. What does Sovereign Lord mean?
 - b. What characteristics or actions do they ascribe to God?
 - c. Why would this be important or necessary?
 - d. How do you think the Scripture reference in the prayer (Psalm 2) spoke into their circumstances?
 - e. What do they ask from God in response to their situation?
 - f. What does this say and mean to you?
4. Pastor Bryan commented on this prayer and the response of believers as being real worship. He defined real worship as being God-centered, biblically grounded and heart-felt. Which of these descriptions do you find guides you into an empowering presence with God? Why do you think this is so?
 - a. If real worship is God-centered and not about our preference for style, volume or our particular life situation how might you better approach your next worship opportunity with God as the focus?
 - b. How might you use Scripture more in your worship efforts?
 - c. What within your own heart helps your worship? What within your heart hinders your worship? What could you do about that?
5. How might you develop your real worship of God to better help you engage the real world of your life?

Prayer time

As a natural response to their real life situation the early believers moved to prayer with God. Allow their format to guide your prayer time now. Spend time in prayer responding to the Sovereign Lord by remembering the amazing, majestic, miraculous and powerful things God has done, either in your own life or as recorded in Scripture. Allow a psalm to speak to your current situation as you pray its words together. Bring before God your current situation or request, remembering that He is in control. Sit quietly and allow the Spirit to fill you with whatever He needs to, to empower you for the task ahead. Step out into the real world with boldness and confidence that you do not step out alone, but rather you step out with the Sovereign Lord who is all-powerful, all-knowing and everywhere.