

DATE: 25 JUNE 2023 | SPEAKER: JOSH YEOH | TOPIC: HOLY AUDACITY - THE CALL TO BOLDNESS | SCRIPTURE: [ACTS 4:1-31](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand why boldness is needed today
2. Commit to being bold in today's day and age

SERMON SUMMARY

As the church, we need to be end-time ready. Part of being end-time ready is to be bold for God's kingdom.

1. The Context of Boldness is Persecution and Suffering

The early church, as prophesied by Christ ([Matthew 10:22](#)), underwent persecution and suffering.

2. The Characteristics of Boldness are the Filling of the Holy Spirit, and Obedience

The early church was baptized in the Holy Spirit. This gave them boldness (as seen in the life of Peter). Boldness also comes through obedience.

3. The Call to Boldness is Demonstrated by the Early Church as a Pattern for the End Time Church to Follow

There will be difficult times to come for the disciples of Christ. There is a strong cultural persecution on the church. Scripture shows us that before the return of Christ, the church will undergo great persecution. Therefore, there is a call for the church not to shrink back in fear of the difficult times, but to pray what the Early Church prayed: that we would be given boldness to continue to speak His Word.

SERMON RECAP

Introduction

Prior to Acts 4, the early church encountered the resurrected Christ and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost which saw 3000 men added to the church. This was followed by the growth of the thriving church in Acts 2 – they met in small groups, devoted themselves to the apostle's teachings, and met the needs of those around them. As a result, God added to their numbers daily. This "awakening" is followed by persecution in Acts 4.

Sometimes, God teaches and shapes the church not by teaching, but by experience. This was the case in Acts 4.

1. The Context of Boldness is Persecution and Suffering in the Early Church

- The church grew as a result of Peter's 2nd sermon and the miracles that the Apostles performed.
- This led to intense persecution by the religious leaders.
- The word witness in Greek is "mártyras" which has parallels to the word "martyr". Being a witness involves being bold to stand up for what one believes, till the point of persecution and death.
- [Matthew 24:9](#) – Jesus warned the early church to expect persecution as they step out to become witnesses.
- [2 Timothy 3:12](#) – Paul warns Timothy that those who desire to live godly lives will face persecution.
- Why is it important for the church to be in tune with the issue of persecution?
 - So that we will have a right and robust theology and suffering in the face of persecution
 - So that we will not be disconnected from the parts of the body of Christ that is suffering persecution.
- The posture of the early church towards persecution sets forth an example for us to follow especially in the seasons to come – prior to the return of Christ.

2. The Characteristics of Boldness in the Early Church

- The word *boldness* in the Greek is *parrhēsia*, and carries the meaning of "to tell it all". Not holding anything back.
- Peter and John had great boldness as a result of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, as they addressed the Sanhedrin ([4:13](#)). This caused the religious leaders to recognise that they had been with Jesus.
- This resulted in the religious leaders forbidding the sharing of Christ.
- However, the early church:
 - Asked for boldness from the Holy Spirit to continue proclaiming Christ ([4:29](#))
 - Continued to proclaim Christ as a result of obedience to Jesus's instructions in [Acts 1:8](#).

3. The Call to Boldness

- In the midst of persecution, the early church continued to proclaim the Good News, trusting in God's sovereignty over their lives.
- God desires to do a new thing in RiverLife, especially in the area of reaching out to the community. What if this "new thing" requires boldness from the church?
- We need to renew our relationship with the Holy Spirit and to pray like the early church – *"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for the church (you and me) to be bold in today's day and age in Singapore? Describe some situations in which boldness is needed.

2. **We need to constantly ask the Holy Spirit to grant us boldness for the various situations that we face which requires us to stand up for what we believe in. How then can we become more aware of the Holy Spirit's activity in our lives?**

3. **God is doing a new thing in RiverLife – He is desiring His church to be a Light in the neighbourhood around us and to host His presence. How can you be bold and participate in what God wants to do through RiverLife?**

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Share with the cell the various areas of your life that you will need to be bold in order to stand up for God's ways. Pray for each other, for God's boldness to come into your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to constantly prompt us to be bold as we do our lives each day.

2. World

- Pray for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.
- Pray for the grieving families that are affected by the implosion of the OceanGate submarine.
- Pray for India as the heatwaves are killing many of its people.
- Pray for the famine that North Korea is experiencing.

3. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Current Sermon Series.** Join us on a seven-week journey to discover seven distinct traits of the early church that will provide fresh revelation of how God wants to empower us as His river flowing outwards. May the lives of the first disciples inspire us to be the church that continues to advance the Kingdom of God and reveal Christ in our generation! (*Sermon titles subjected to change*)

- 28 May : A Beautiful Mission
- 04 Jun : Revisiting Pentecost
- 11 Jun : Sharing Life Together in the Spirit
- 18 Jun : Ministering in the Power of Jesus
- 25 Jun : Holy Audacity: The Call to Boldness
- 02 Jul : True to God
- 09 Jul : Unstoppable

2. **We've Got Something to Share.** Our Elders and Senior Leaders have been burdened that we are living in critical times and yet the love of many has grown cold. After interceding for 3 years, our leadership feels the urgency to share their burden with the church and to lead the church into a season of prayer that will begin mid-July. In light of the above, our leadership would like to request the following:

- **Sun, 02 Jul** Service will be longer to include extended time with leadership until 12pm.

Arrangement for Children on both Sundays Child-minding will be available for children aged 3-12 years. • Preschool in Classrooms 214/215 (Level 2) • Primary in Grace Chapel (Level 1) • Cradle Roll will be open but there will be no volunteers on duty.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and request for leaders and worshippers to accommodate as much as possible.

3. **Marriage Retreat.** 24-26 Nov 2023. Forest City, JB. Cost: \$300 per individual. Link to signup: rlc.sg/mr
4. **Cells Prayer Night. Fri, 30 Jun, 8-10pm, Worship Centre.** Part of what happens during a revival is that God's people return back to first love, to seeking His face and voice. Let's come together as cell groups to seek the Lord together through worship, prayer and sharing with one another.
5. **Caleb Ministry: Helping Seniors & Retirees Live Well and Finish Well in Christ.** If you are working, retired or intending to retire in the next 5 years, we invite you to attend our short Introductory Talk to hear more about this ministry and how you can be plugged in.

Choose one session to attend:

- Sun, 23 Jul | 11am after service | Worship Centre
- Sun, 6 Aug | 11am after service | Worship Centre

6. **Alpha Course. 1 July – 16 September.** If you have questions about Christianity that you are seeking answers for, we invite you to join us for Alpha - a series of interactive sessions that explores the basics of the Christian faith.

- For More Information: rlc.sg/alpha

- To Sign Up: rlc.sg/join-alpha
7. **SPYCES - Spiritual Parenting of Young Couples (Online). 2 – 5pm starting on 2 July. Cost: \$10.** SPYCES is a series of 5 online sessions where parents in the same season of life can come together to fellowship and build friendship with one another. You will also learn from the Bible how to journey with your children and your children's children in the days ahead. Registration Link: rlc.sg/spyces (Closing Date: 25 Jun 2023).

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 2*
 - Cells Prayer Night (Fridays): 30 Jun, 8-10pm @ Worship Centre
- *Quarter 3*
 - Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
 - 32nd Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
 - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
 - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Christmas Outreach: Dec
 - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec

2. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).** The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

3. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Wed Night Prayer Meeting.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
2. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.
3. **Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
4. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>

5. **SuperLife Ministry: Call for Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
6. **Technical & Production (TAP): Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our digital bulletin for more details.
7. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
2. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '*The RiverLife Podcast*' on Spotify.
3. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
4. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
5. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

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Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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