

## 2026-01-18 Summary

What if our understanding of victory is completely upside down? This message challenges us to reconsider what it means to win in the Christian life by examining the early church's radical response to persecution in Acts 4 and 5. When the apostles were arrested, beaten, and commanded to stop speaking about Jesus, they didn't cower or compromise—they prayed for even greater boldness and rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ's name. Their prayer wasn't for comfort or safety, but for the power to speak God's word with 'mega boldness' and to see miracles that would point others to Jesus. The result? God shook the building, filled them with the Holy Spirit, and they immediately went back to doing exactly what got them arrested in the first place. Here's the convicting truth: we often measure our Christian walk by earthly standards—comfort, success, acceptance—when God measures it by faithfulness, obedience, and whether we're willing to speak up even when it costs us something. The apostles left their flogging rejoicing because they understood something we've forgotten: the scoreboard that matters isn't kept on earth but in heaven. The real question isn't whether life is going smoothly, but whether there's anything in our lives that's clearly from God rather than from our own human effort. Are we bold enough that people know we belong to Jesus? Do we talk about Him with the same passion we reserve for our favorite teams or hobbies? This isn't about being weird or obnoxious—it's about having such confidence in who Jesus is that persecution, difficulty, or social awkwardness can't silence us. The early believers changed their world not because they were perfect, but because they were surrendered. They kept their heads in the game even when they were losing by earthly standards, because they knew the final victory was already secured.