

The Courage to Speak

Bulletin

1. The Call to Proclaim Christ (*Acts 17:16–21; Mark 16:15; Colossians 1:28–29*)

2. Why This Feels So Hard (*Acts 17:17; 1 Corinthians 9:16*)

3. Cultural Reasons for Our Silence (*Acts 17:21; Historical Reflections*)

4. The Heart-Level Problem: The Fear of Man (*John 12:42–43; Galatians 1:10*)

5. The Gospel That Frees Us to Speak (*John 21:15–19; Romans 1:16*)

Small Group Discussion Questions

What stands out to you about Paul's example in Acts 17:16–21? How does his courage to speak in Athens challenge or encourage you personally?

When you think about Paul's desire to "present everyone mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:28–29), how does that change the way we look at our everyday life and the way we view other people?

How have you seen American culture encourage the idea that faith should be private? In what ways might that influence how we live and speak as Christians today?

How has technology or social media affected the way you approach spiritual conversations?

Where have you seen someone share their faith in a way that was gentle, natural, and effective? What stood out to you about how they did it?

What helps you personally feel more courageous or peaceful when the opportunity to talk about Jesus arises?

The message described how Christians sometimes disguise disobedience as virtue — "I'm just being respectful" or "It's not the right time." Which of those inner rationalizations do you relate to most, and why?

Read John 12:42–43. What does it reveal about the "fear of man"? Why is the desire for approval so powerful, and how can it quietly shape our obedience?

Paul says in Galatians 1:10 that we can't both please people and serve Christ. What might it look like this week to please God instead of people — in one specific relationship or setting?