



Title: Bold As A Lion

Category: Serving Man

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"The wicked flee though no one pursues but the righteous are as bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1).

As bold as a lion. How can you not like that! But, are we? The dictionary defines bold as "fearless and adventurous." We can relate to that; rock climbing, whitewater rafting, exploring require a degree of fearlessness. Some might include marriage in this list--some. But would you include faith in this list? Think what it took for the disciples to follow Jesus. They saw Him create food enough to feed thousands, cast out multiple demons, heal the lame, the deaf, the blind and raise the dead. He walked on water and calmed a storm. Jesus controlled what was in front of Him like a rock climber does a cliff. To Him, there were no obstacles. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Jesus handed the baton of this adventurous work over to His disciples and Peter and John ran with it. Think of the boldness it took for them to reach out their hand to a man who had never walked and pull him to his feet! God rewarded their bold faith and instantly healed the man. The crowd was excited to see such a great miracle but not the Pharisees. They put Peter and John in prison, and the next day they brought them out to question them.

"By what power or what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is the stone you builders rejected which has become the capstone. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.' When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:5-13).

These unschooled, ordinary men would not allow these authorities to stop them. "The righteous are as bold as a lion." They had been with Jesus long enough to know that as long as they were with Him, He was in control.

On our own, we have to settle for rock climbing and rapids because that's about all our righteousness will allow, but when we stand in His righteousness, there are no limits. Whatever is in front of us--whether sickness, or lack, or oppression--Jesus is in control. By what power or what name can we do this? It's in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth; "For there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."