



- ii. Peter summarizes Isaiah's declarations and applies them to Jesus.
  - Isaiah 42:8
  - Isaiah 43:10-11
  - Isaiah 45:17-18, 21-24

- C. They saw the “courage” (the boldness) of Peter and John.
  - i. They are filled with the Spirit and speak the Word of God boldly.
  - ii. See Act 4:29, 31

### III. Powerlessness (4:14-22)

- A. The **powerlessness** of these power-brokers.
  - a) v14 they **can say nothing**
  - b) V16 They **can't deny** the miracle.
  - c) V17 They **acknowledge they can do nothing** to stop the spread of the Gospel
  - d) V19-20 Peter and John refuse to heed their warning.
  - e) Vs 21-22 **they can't decide** how to punish them, and therefore do nothing.
- B. In contrast to their powerlessness, is the power of Christ.
  - i. V21: All the people are praising God!
  - ii. *Acts begins with the enthronement of Jesus Christ... who now sets out dethroning the idols of the nations by reclaiming the worship of the nations.*

### IV. Prayer (4:23-30)

- A. Acts 3:1–4:31 began with prayer and ends with prayer.
  - i. Proclamation is powerless without prayer.

Paul Tautges: *“Prayerlessness is the most subtle disclosure of our independence and our depraved heart's own declaration of sovereignty...”*

- ii. Prayer as the air-war; preaching as the ground war.

- B. They use Psalm 2 in a quote and apply it to their present circumstances. (25b-26)

- i. Psalm 2:4-8
- ii. Psalm 2 is used in such a way that all who reject Christ are lumped together as enemies of God—the nations of the world. Yet, the nations of the world become His inheritance. All are excluded in order that they can be included through faith in Jesus.

- C. The Place Shaken (4:31)

- i. Judges 5:4-5 **God is on the move...**He is leading this prayer-committed army in the the war for the worship of the nations through the Gospel.
- ii. Isaiah 64:1-2 **God has come down...** in the Holy Spirit. He will make His name known.

- iii. This is the very thing the temple rulers feared!