

FACING OPPOSITION

Acts 4.1-22 // June 26, 2022

SUPPRESSING THE TRUTH

John and Peter are pulled aside for questioning, and even by the top Jewish leaders who had Jesus killed! What's more is these leaders admit that a miracle has taken place and can't be denied, yet they insist upon silencing Peter and John from preaching the Name of Jesus, despite the fact that they recognize that this miracle was legitimate.

**We can't open the eyes of those who are strongly opposed,
but we share the words of the One who can.**

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2 Timothy 3.12, 13 // Luke 12.11, 12

This text gives us one example of so many in the Word that helps us see how we can respond to opposition. It is important that we have a robust view of what Scripture reveals, so that we can have a variety of tools in our toolbox, knowing that each situation that presents itself is unique.

We live today in a post-Christian society where biblical values and morals are no longer the accepted norm, but are seen as a threat. Our temptation may be to hunker down and hide in our Christian sub-culture, but we are to go into the harvest and bring the Good News, even where there is opposition.

**We must realize that gates are a defensive tool.
The gates of hell aren't attacking us,
we are attacking the gates, and the gates of hell will not prevail.**

Matthew 16.18 // 2 Timothy 2.24-26 // Matthew 5.43-48

THE OFFENSIVE MESSAGE

But going on the offensive does not mean purposefully or unnecessarily *being* offensive. The Gospel message inherently *is offensive*, and we are called to walk by the Spirit with the fruit of the Spirit even while we share an offensive message.

**Peter's words of clear and even offensive truth
are enclosed in an envelope of love and compassion.
We don't take off the Fruit of the Spirit
when we take up the Sword of the Spirit**

Jeremiah 20.9 // 2 Corinthians 4.7-11, 16-18

As witnesses, we can not keep silent. We must be honest and clear, yet we must also share as people who have been loved with unmerited grace, sharing with others whom we aim to love with unmerited grace.

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

1 Corinthians 3.10

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart
phone camera at
the QR Code to
access a virtual
Connection Card

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **Acts 4.1-22**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

What Gospel truth do you think gave Peter the boldness to speak clearly and boldly in the face of opposition? Chances are, we've never come close to looking a potential executioner (Caiaphas) in the eye, how can this same Gospel truth help us when we are facing our own oppositions?

Your Life Mission

Peter gives us great example as a man who used his acts of faith and kindness towards others as opportunities to boldly and clearly speak the truth, even in the face of opposition. What relationships do you experience pushback and opposition with that you are hoping to be able find ways to share the Gospel with, and how could you use prayer for them?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

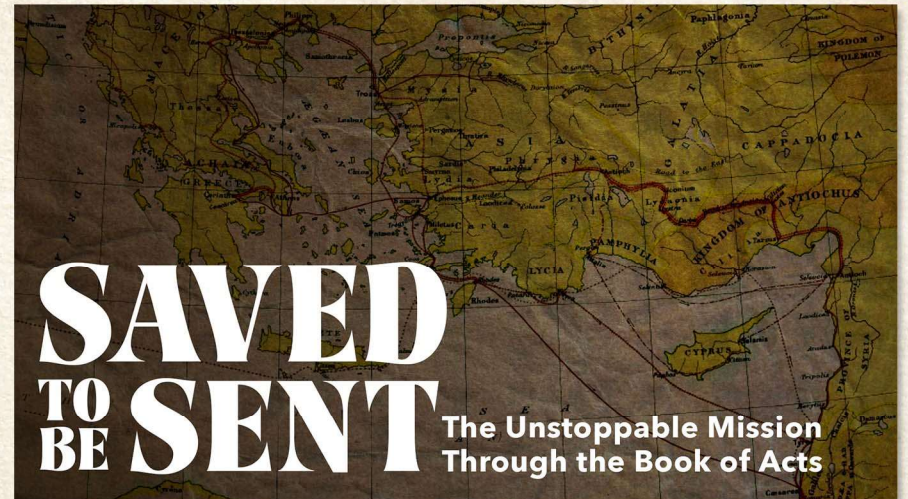
- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
 - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
 - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



LIFE MISSION

CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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