

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF THE CHURCH TO THE COMMUNITY

THEME: THE CAUSE AND EFFECT OF A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TEXT: Acts 4:1-31

INTRODUCTION

The main aspect of having a significant impact to the community is “relevance.” Without it, a church can become isolated and exclusive among its own members and people.

A STUDY OF ACTS 4:1-31. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CITY AND THE COMMUNITY IS IMPACTED BY GOD’S WORD AND ITS POWER?

1. THE CITY AND ITS LEADERS WERE GREATLY DISTURBED TO DISCUSS THE MIRACLE AND DEAL WITH THE PERPETRATORS, v 1-3,5, 14-16

- 1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 3 They seized **Peter and John**, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 5 The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. 7 They had **Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"**

2. MANY IN THE CITY HEARD AND BELIEVED THE MESSAGE AND WAS CONVERTED v4

- 4 But many who heard the message believed, and the **number of men grew to about five thousand.**
- 10 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. 11 He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

THE CAUSE OF THE IMPACT:

1. **THE TEACHING AND PROCLAMATION OF JESUS** - 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.
2. **A MIRACULOUS HEALING** - 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today **for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed**, 22 For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

THE EFFECT OF THE IMPACT:

1. **EVERYBODY KNEW ABOUT AND CANNOT DENY THE MIRACLE** - 16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "**Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.**
2. **BOLNESS TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD INCREASED** - 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**
3. **THE WHOLE CITY WAS EXCITED IN PRAISING GOD BECAUSE OF THE MIRACLE** - 21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

THE KEYS TO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY

1. **ASPIRE TO SHOW JESUS IN OUR LIFESTYLE, v13**
 - 13 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.**
2. **ASSERT A STRONG DETERMINATION TO FULFILL YOUR CALLING DESPITE THE OPPOSITION v17-20**
 - 17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 **For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.**"
3. **APPLY THE POWER OF A UNITED PRAYER WITH ONE VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND ITS PEOPLE, v23-30**
 - 23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, **they raised their voices together in prayer to God.**
 - READ THE PRAYER IN v25-30

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"IT IS WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TOOL TO REACH OUT THE COMMUNITY AS JESUS INTENDED TO." (ACTS 1:8)

PRACTICAL STEPS TO IMPACT THE COMMUNITY TODAY

1. START A NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER GATHERING IN YOUR HOME AND KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS.
2. PARTNER WITH THE BODY OF THE CHRIST AND JOIN EVENTS IN EVERY OPPORTUNITY
3. INVOLVEMENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM AND EXPOSURE IN ANY COMMUNITY EVENTS

CONCLUSION

We are called to reach out the community with the Gospel of Jesus. Therefore, let us be armed with it at all times in season and out of season. `