

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

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How It Changes Everything!

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Acts 4:23-35 "Unshakable"

Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, floods, forest fires have been headline news since the beginning of 2011 reminding us that we live in a fallen world and none of us our immune to crisis or catastrophe. (Hebrews 12:24-29) If I am shaken by God I will be unshaken by this world and become a shaker of this world.

<u>IF I AM SHAKEN BY GOD...</u> V31 and the place...was shaken. I need...

- → <u>Friends</u> who stir up greater <u>passion</u> for God within us. V23 "they went to their friends and reported" (Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:24-25)
- → <u>Prayer</u> that seeks to <u>know and treasure</u> God above all. vv24-30 (Ps. 27; Eph. 1:15-23, 3:14-21)

I WILL BE UNSHAKEN BY THIS WORLD...

- → This is not a <u>denial of reality.</u> V23 "reported what the Chief Priests and Elders had said to them" v29 "Lord, look upon their threats…(give us) boldness" (John 16:33; 2 Cor. 4:7-9, 16-18)
- → But embracing God's loving wise control in reality. Vv29-30 appealing to God's love, vv24, 27-28 showing God's wisdom as Creator working His plan. Vv25-26 God has ultimate control no one can thwart His plan.

God in His love always wills what is best for us, in His wisdom knows what is best, and in His sovereignty He has the power to bring it about.

How do I know this is fact? <u>The Cross</u> vv27-28 (lsa. 46:10; Acts 2:23, 3:18; Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28)

AND BECOME A SHAKER OF THIS WORLD. Everything you learned about evangelism you learned in kindergarten: (Acts 1:8, 17:6)

- → **Show** (Deeds) V32-35 "they had everything in common"
- → <u>Tell</u> (Words) V31 "continued to speak the word of God with boldness"

Are you a part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed?"



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- 1) What crisis' or catastrophes have headlined the news since the beginning of this year? Hebrews 12:24-29 tells us that which can be shaken will be shaken so that what cannot be shaken will remain. Explain. What in your life is currently shaking you?
- 2) Read Acts 4:23-35. What stands out to you from this text? The thesis statement of this text: If I am shaken by God I will be unshaken by this world and become a shaker of this world. What do you think it means to be shaken by God (v31)? What was the very first thing Peter and John did once they were released from jail and why was it significant (v23)?
- 3) Why can you learn a lot about a person by when, why and what they pray? What does this prayer tell you about the group of believers (vv24-30)? What is prayer that seeks to know and treasure God above all? What would you say is the average American's view of God (Small, Grande or Venti) and what is the impact?
- 4) To the degree I am shaken by God is to the degree I will be unshaken by this world. This is not a denial of reality but an embracing of God's loving wise control in reality. Explain. How do these verses show us that we will have sorrow but not despair (John 16:33; 2 Cor. 4:7-9, 16-18)? How do you see God's loving wise control in this text?
- 5) What will be the result of someone who has been shaken by God and therefore unshaken by this world (vv31-35)? Why do you think radical generosity is a mark of N.T. Christianity? Why is our show & tell of the Gospel inseparable? Pray the thesis of this study.

The Fellowship of the Unashamed

I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed."
The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line.
The decision has been made. I am a disciple of
Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down,
back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present
makes sense, and my future is secure.
I am finished and done with low living, sight walking,
small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams,
chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I now live by presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until Heaven returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me.

My colors will be clear.

I am not ashamed of the gospel . . . Romans 1:16

Weaver's Poem

My Life is but a weaving between my Lord and me; I cannot choose the colors He worketh steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow And I, in foolish pride, Forget He sees the upper, And I the under side.

Not til the loom is silent And the shuttles cease to fly, Shall God unroll the canvas And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful In the Weaver's skillful hand, As the threads of gold and silver In the pattern He has planned.

He knows, He loves, He cares, Nothing this truth can dim. He gives His very best to those Who leave the choice with Him.