FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Acts 4:1-12 Jeff Schreve

Has the life-changing gospel of Jesus truly changed your life?

1. The gospel of Jesus Christ is often misunderstood.

- A. Jesus came to earth to <u>die as a sacrifice for sin</u>. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*
- B. Jesus rose from the dead and <u>conquered death and hell</u>. "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. Revelation 1:17-18
- C. Jesus offers eternal life to all who will <u>repent and believe</u>. But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. Acts 4:4

For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. Hebrews 4:2

2. The gospel of Jesus Christ is always disturbing to the world.

A. People hate to be exposed for their <u>sin and false beliefs</u>. "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." John 3:19-21

B. People will often respond <u>violently</u> to the gospel of Jesus. "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears, and they rushed upon him with one impulse. Acts 7:51-54, 57

3. The gospel of Jesus Christ is <u>what really matters in life</u>.

- A. Christians are called to be bold witnesses for Jesus Christ.
- B. Christians are called to make the message crystal clear.
- C. Christians are called to <u>be faithful until death</u>. *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10*

Be honest ... have you really given your life to Jesus?