

Coping with a Crisis

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I. Introduction.

A. All people will inevitably face a crisis.

II. In the midst of crisis, Peter and John went to the place they belonged.

A. This was a place of love and security.

B. If the church is the church, it will be a company of people who stop what they are doing to respond.

C. We must bear our light burdens, but we must learn to get help from others from the heavy loads. (Galatians 6)

D. The church is supposed to be a body full of a variety of people who meet different needs.

III. Peter and John reported their needs.

A. We need to be prepared to be honest about our needs in humility.

B. We ought to involve the fellowship and invoke their prayer.

1. Prayer needs to be an integral part of experience before it becomes spontaneous. Pressure brings unity and spontaneity to the church.

2. Prayer needs to be articulated.

C. They prayed for certain things.

1. They called God the one who has absolute authority and who has predicted all things.

2. They acknowledged that God is the God who intervenes in history.

3. They applied Scripture to their situation.

4. They recognized the situation, but they did not ask that the situation be taken away. Instead they asked for boldness to hold to God's commands and take what comes their way.

IV. They were filled with the Holy Spirit to preach in boldness.

Applications questions:

1. Why is it so difficult to go to the church when our burdens are too great to bear? Explain.

2. What stood out to you about the way the church prayed?

3. How can we stand tall when the church fails to meet our needs? Why is this necessary?
