

NO OTHER NAME

ACTS 4:12

Intro. “By what power, or by what name have ye done this? . . . neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. . . they had been with Jesus. . . commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. . . we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. . . They spoke the word of God with boldness. . . they had all things common. . . and great grace was upon them all.”

These are just a few of the statements found in Acts 4. There is so much to look at in this chapter. Certainly Acts 4:12 is important as we talk to people from time to time. We will do an overall survey of the chapter this morning. We find:

I. The arrest of Peter and John (4:1-4).

A. This is a continuation of the miracle and preaching recorded in chapter 3.

1. As Peter and John continued to speak, the priests, the captain to the temple and the Sadducees came upon him.
 - a. Seems to indicate that they came up suddenly
 - b. Came in a hostile attitude.
2. Scriptures state they were grieved.
 - a. Word means to be greatly disturbed.
 - b. They were angry and upset. Why?
3. They were teaching the people.
4. They were teaching the resurrection.

B. They laid hands on them.

1. They arrested them.
2. Kept them overnight in safe keeping.

C. In spite of this, many who heard and believed the word.

1. The number of the men came to be about 5,000.
2. The number of members of the church would have been much greater (women and children).

II. Peter and John Before the council (4:5-10).

A. They asked Peter and John, “By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?” (4:7).

1. They were questioning the authority.
2. They were trying to find some grounds on which they could punish Peter and John.
 - a. Not asked out of sincerity to know the answer.
 - b. Possibly trying to intimidate the apostles.
3. A great question from Peter’s point of view.
4. Peter filled with the H/S (Matthew 10:19,20), said. . . [Spirit directed his reply].
5. The cure was accomplished “in the name of Jesus Christ,” i.e. by Christ’s authority and power.
6. The reply really put the Sanhedrin on trial.
7. The answer Peter gave not only was clear and specific, it also served to put the rulers and elders in direct opposition to the God whom they professed to serve.
8. What a charge... What courage!

III. In None Other is there salvation (4:11,12).

A. Stone set at nought (Psa. 118:22).

1. Jesus was that cornerstone, the sure foundation, the only source of salvation.
2. The Jewish rulers were the builders, but instead of accepting Jesus as the Messiah, they had rejected him—rejected him on whom all the plans of God for the world’s redemption rested.
3. Their building would fall, for it had no sure foundation. [I Corinthians 3:11]

B. No Other Name.

1. Peter leaves the figurative language, he lays down a fundamental truth in the clearest terms.

2. Peter tells them that salvation must be in the name of the very one they had caused to be crucified.
 3. “In the name of” means by his authority.
 4. Plainly stated, the words meant that they had to come into Christ—into his church—to be saved.
 5. Absolutely no other name under heaven among men in which there is salvation.
 6. Also shows that no church of human origin—one that Christ did not found—has any salvation in it. No salvation in any other ! !
 7. All saved people are in the one Christ founded.
 8. To say there are many ways to be saved, when the Bible says one, is “unbelief” (Matt.7:13,14)
 9. John 6:66-68
- IV. They had been with Jesus.
- A. The boldness of Peter and John.
 1. They perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men (uneducated and unschooled men!)
 2. Peter and John had not been schooled in either of the two school of Hebrew theology— i.e. they had not attended the Shammai School or the Hillel School.
 3. They had however been in school of the Master for a period of 3 ½ years.
 4. Most important school is the school of the Master.
- V. Instruction and Response. (4:17-20)
- A. Stop preaching (v.18)...
 1. These men were not interested in learning any new truth. Instead they made up their minds to try to see that the facts which had been so clearly demonstrated before their eyes, spread no further.
 2. These men privately admitted that the power of God had been clearly revealed through Peter and John.
 - a. They had rejected Jesus as the Messiah, had put him to death, and tried to prevent his resurrection.
 - b. They must either admit their error, confess their sin, and change their religious attitude, or continue to fight against the claims of Christ.
 - c. Still a problem today with denominationalism.
 - B. We cannot stop preaching
 1. Acts 4:19,20; 5:29
 2. Jeremiah 20:9
 - C. Prayer for boldness.
 1. Prayer is found in 4:23-30.
 2. Instead of praying for God to destroy their enemies, they prayed for strength and grace to meet the opposition and to preach the word of God with all boldness.
 3. They continued to speak with boldness (vs. 13, 31).
- VI. Unity.
- A. All things common (v.32).
 1. The early church had many admirable traits of character, but none more striking than the overall interest they had in the common welfare of the brethren.
 2. When the Lord’s people are willing to push self into the background and concentrate on the good of others, it is difficult for wrongdoing to arise.
 - B. Great grace... (v.33).
 1. The preaching was more effective because the church was upholding it by faithful Christian living.
 2. It is that their union, their benevolence their liberality in supplying the needs of the needy, was a means of opening the hearts of the people, and of winning them to the Saviour.
 3. If we wish to incline others to our opinions, nothing is better adapted to it than to show them kindness, and even to minister to their temporal needs.

Con: In none other name is there salvation. What a statement. No matter how we try to maneuver around that statement, it still stands. In Christ is salvation. It cannot be found anywhere else. Not through Muslim religion, nor denominationalism. You must be in Christ to be saved. We need to preach and teach that with courage like Peter and John did. What about you? Are you in Christ?