



Title/Date: 5/7/23 **“The BOLDNESS, Confidence, and Courage To Proclaim the Exclusivity of Jesus”**

(Peter & John arrested for healing in the name of Jesus & preaching resurrection by the power of Jesus)

Acts 4:1-13 As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, 2 being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. 5 On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; 6 and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. 7 When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, 9 if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-- by this name this man stands here before you in good health. 11 "He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER** stone. 12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." 13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

When you see phrases ALL IN CAPS they are quotations from the Old Testament – where is the quote in 4:11 found in the O.T.? What is the context of the O.T. passage and how does that help us understand what Peter was thinking or saying?

I. Introduction:

Rejoicing, Praising, and Thanking God for this building (but also knowing that with victories and progress in our faith and in our church there also comes “push back” (trials and tribulations) from the evil one and unbelievers who hate God and His people – especially when they are moving forward in evangelism and church planting.

Examples of Religious Pluralism, Syncretism, and Compromising Ecumenical Movements:

What are examples of religious pluralism, syncretism, ecumenicalism, or universalism that you have seen or heard of in the U.S.A.? Discuss why they are dangerous and exactly why they are unbiblical/not from God but rather from the evil one?

Chad’s Translation Acts 4:1-12: And having them stand in the midst they inquired by what power or in what name did you all do this? Then Peter having been filled (with) the Holy Spirit said to them Rulers of the people and Elders if we today are examined/judged on the basis of a good deed to this weak man by what is he saved? Let it be known to all of you also all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene whom you all crucified whom the God raised from the dead in this name this man stands before you all whole. He is the stone the having been despised by you all the builders the one having become into (the) cornerstone (lit. head of of the corner). And there is not salvation in another, no one. For neither is a different name under the heaven the having been given to men by which it is necessary to save us.

How does the triple emphasis (3 different ways of saying it... there is not salvation in another, no one, and neither is a different name) in Acts 4:12 a great and irrefutable support for the exclusivity of Christ?

II. Preaching Outline/Main Points 5 Reasons the Sadducees were Sad:

1. (4:1-2) They got **MAD** (lit. greatly distressed) after someone got healed because they had no real power themselves
2. (4:2-3) They **PERSECUTED** (arrested and jailed – lit. laid hands on them put them in their guard) Peter and John for the egregious crime of teaching what they the ruling class did not believe in (resurrection) but what the apostles firmly believed and witnessed - Jesus and the resurrection
3. (4:4) They **FAILED** - their persecution did not stop the gospel from spreading (Christianity grew another 2000 people –just the men totaled over 5000) (lit. but many many of those having heard the word/logos **BELIEVED**)
4. (4:5-6) They **CONSPIRED** together (lit. rulers, elders, scribes) thinking they, their prestigious lineage and positions could stop the power/spread of Christianity
5. (4:7) They were **CONFLICTED**, being curious themselves as to what power/name healed the lame man yet commanded that preaching/teaching in the name of Jesus to stop

What did you learn about the Sadducees that you didn’t know or hadn’t heard before – why were they so sad☹? What’s not sad is reading Acts 6:7 – how does the later conversion of many of the religious leaders present at this trial indicate about the importance and power of Peter’s courageous preaching or seeing this lame man healed and present at this trial with the 71 members of the Sanhedrin?

7 Lessons Learned/Ways we can be like Peter

1. (4:8a) He was **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit (empowered by the Holy Spirit in this moment)
πίμπλημι *pimplēmi*: to fill full of, **Origin:** from a prim. root **πλη-**
 - (Jesus) Luke 1:15, (John the Baptist) 1:41, (Zacharias) 1:67; (Apostles at Pentecost) Acts 2:4; (Peter) 4:8, (Entire Church) 4:31; (Paul - Conversion) 9:17; (Paul – Ministry) 13:9, 52; (command) Romans 15:13; (command) Ephesians 5:18-21
2. (4:8b) He was **RESPECTFUL** (addressed them as rulers and elders of the Jewish people)
1 Peter 2:17-19, 3:1-2 , 3:15-17
3. (4:9) He was **HUMBLE**, **GRACIOUS**, and yet **TRUTHFUL/factual** – this lame man was healed by the name/power/authority of Jesus and that Jesus is raised by God from the dead

Stating exclusive truths gently in the form of questions

“if we today are examined/judged on the basis of a good deed to this weak man **by what is he saved?**”

(Ephesians 4:15¹⁵ speaking the truth in love, Colossians 4:6⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, as *though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Philippians 4:5⁵ Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. Titus 3:2² to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. 1 Peter 3:15¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;)

4. (4:10-11) He was **FEARLESS, BOLD**, and **COURAGEOUS** even in the face of persecution to call out the Jewish leaders for their murder/crucifixion of Jesus (the builders/leaders have rejected the stone/Jesus that has become the chief cornerstone – central/foundation of saving faith/belief)

Calling someone out as a murderer is **BOLD**, calling someone out as a murderer while you are on trial and they can murder you too is even **BOLDER**. Repeating that God raised Jesus from dead is **COURAGEOUS**, doing so in front of a group who are defined by not believing in resurrection and who arrested you for preaching resurrection from the dead takes even more **COURAGE**.

Having **NO FEAR** by quoting Scriptures that you know are convicting, controversial, and offensive to most is one thing, but quoting a Scripture to the religious experts that states the one they despised/rejected/killed is the very cornerstone of their faith is absolutely **FEARLESS!**

5. (4:12) He was doctrinally **UNCOMPROMISING**, **SCRIPTURAL**, and **EXCLUSIVE** rather than ecumenical, practical, pragmatic, pandering, or pluralistic by saying “salvation is in no one else, there is no other name by which one can be saved”
- Christianity is either exclusively true or false (two things that contradict each other cannot both be right)
 - Jesus is either right or wrong (He was either the Son of God or the greatest deceiver – but you cannot believe he was a “good teacher” or a good “moral compass” with His exclusive claims)
 - The Bible is either God’s Word or Man’s Stories (If God inspired the Scriptures He is the ultimate author, and as God He is perfect, therefore His Word/message to man must be perfect, without error (inerrant, infallible), and totally trustworthy and sufficient to be our ultimate guide and authority in life)
 - We (you and I – this church/TBC) are either preaching a gospel message that is either exclusive truth or an overt lie (as Paul said in 1 Cor. 15 if there is no resurrection our preaching and faith are in vain, we are liars/false witnesses, our faith is worthless, still without remedy for our sins, and therefore to be pitied the most of all men.

Exclusive Claims of Christ and Christianity

- **John 14:6** ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- **Acts 4:12** ¹² "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
- **1 Timothy 2:5-6** ⁵ For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.

C.S. Lewis – Lord, Liar, Lunatic / Josh McDowell (Trilemma diagram)

<https://truthfaithandreason.com/defending-your-faith-101-christianitys-exclusive-claims/>

- **Christianity is exclusive among all others because Jesus is the only one** who came to solve the problem of human suffering and sin, and only He brought hope for the future. (Hebrews 9:28)
- **Jesus is the only one** who claimed to be the Son of God and proved it through his ministry, miracles and resurrection (Romans 1:4)
- **Jesus is the only one** who fulfilled all of the prophecies given hundreds of years before his time (Acts 3:18)
- **Jesus is the only one** who brought not just mercy (forgiveness of debt), but grace (a gift of eternal life) (John 1:14-17, 3:14-18, 36, Romans 5:15-21)
- **Jesus is the only one** who said it is **done** so that we do not have to **do** anything to earn salvation and entrance into Heaven (John 19:30, Romans 6:10, Hebrews 7:25-27, 9:11-12, 10:10, 1 Peter 3:18)

Gotquestions.com (Is Jesus the Only Way to Heaven?)

- Jesus was “chosen by God” to be the Savior ([1 Peter 2:4](#)).
- Jesus is the only One to have come down from heaven and returned there ([John 3:13](#)).
- He is the only person to have lived a perfect human life ([Hebrews 4:15](#)).
- He is the only sacrifice for sin ([1 John 2:2](#); [Hebrews 10:26](#)).
- He alone fulfilled the Law and the Prophets ([Matthew 5:17](#)).
- He is the only man to have conquered death forever ([Hebrews 2:14–15](#)).
- He is the only Mediator between God and man ([1 Timothy 2:5](#)).
- He is the only man whom God has “exalted . . . to the highest place” ([Philippians 2:9](#)).
- **Jesus spoke of Himself as the only way to heaven in several places besides [John 14:6](#).**
- He presented Himself as the object of faith in [Matthew 7:21–27](#).
- He said His words are life ([John 6:63](#)).
- He promised that those who believe in Him will have eternal life ([John 3:14–15](#)).
- He is *the* gate of the sheep ([John 10:7](#)); *the* bread of life ([John 6:35](#)); and *the* resurrection ([John 11:25](#)).

No one else can rightly claim those titles.

What are some other passages of Scriptures besides John 14:6, Acts 4:12, and 1 Tim. 2:5-6 that support the exclusivity of Jesus as the only way?

6. (4:13a) He was **CONFIDENT & COMPETENT** despite not being formally educated or trained
Hebrews 5:12-6:3 · 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 · Romans 15:14 · Matthew 28:18-20

Look up and discuss these 4 passages on being mature, confident, and competent in the faith that Chad didn't have time for

7. (4:13b) He had much **TIME** with Jesus – he was all these things because He had been with Jesus/spent much time with Jesus

But you do have to put in the TIME (quality time – have YOU been with Jesus this week, a lot or a little?)

Time in the Word (reading, hearing, studying, meditating, memorizing)

Time in Prayer (talking and listening to God)

Time in Fellowship (time with your brothers and sisters in Christ – practicing the one One Anothers)

Time in Witnessing/Evangelizing (you do get better with practice, practice never makes perfect, but it does make you more useful, powerful, and fruitful for the Lord in sharing your faith.



V. Application: Colossians 3:12-17 (Time with Jesus – Let the Word DWELL richly in you)

What motivates you the most, spurs you the most, or helps you the most - to ensure you spend quality time with Jesus each day/week?