

ACTS 4 PART I

Main Point: NO OTHER NAME!

12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”
Acts 4:12

Digging Deeper

Between The Rock and a hard place

In this chapter we see Peter and John questioned by the Sanhedrin, the religious elite of the day. They had just worked a miracle in the name of Jesus, and now stand trial for their ‘crime’. As the council questioned them, they responded that it is in the Name of Jesus, that the man was healed. And that no other name would bring salvation. This puts the Sanhedrin in a hard position. On one hand, they convict men of blasphemy for going against their religious authority, potentially denying God. On the other hand, they must recognize that this is the work of God, humble themselves, and release their chokehold on religious control. Take note of vs 19, “But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him?”

The religious elite (Priests, Pharisees, and Sadducees) were the dictators of the religious tradition. They claimed to hold every authority on earth as to how God should be worshiped. As you can probably guess, this was extremely problematic and toxic. Blinded by their pride, greed, and corruption, they could not see God clearly at work among them, nor would they lay down their own authority to place Christ over them as the ultimate authority.

Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.
1 Peter 3:22

Discussion Questions

1. Much like the Sanhedrin, we often let our traditions get in the way of clearly seeing God. What are some examples of this in your life?
2. How do we recognize Jesus Christ as the Supreme authority in our lives?
3. Vs 13 describes the amazement of the counsel seeing that these people were “ordinary” or “uneducated” men that had “been with Jesus” How can people tell that you have been with Jesus? What are some ways that you can ‘be with Jesus’ every day? |
4. The counsel threatened Peter and John to stop “keep them from spreading their propaganda” (vs 17 nlt.) Why does the world view the name of Christ as propaganda? How can we change that?
5. God used ‘ordinary men’ to radically change the course of history. What does this say about you?