

KEEP JESUS WEIRD

An 8-Part Study of the Book of Acts - **Part 4: No Other Name** - Sermon Study Guide 4|28|19

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Study Questions:

Who were these authorities who were so greatly disturbed by the actions of Peter and John? What were they defending? What in particular did they find so offensive about the apostles' teachings?

"The number of men who believed grew to about five thousand."
Why is this number so extraordinary?

What do you think so many people found so compelling about Peter and John's message?

What miracle had Peter and John performed that got the attention of the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law?

Why do you think it mattered so much to the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law that Peter and John were preaching and healing in Jesus' name?

Throughout Jesus' life on earth, Peter was known for being impulsive, dim-witted, and even cowardly. Remember: it was Peter who, just weeks prior to this, buckled under pressure and denied ever knowing Jesus. But now he's calm, clear-headed, and courageous. What changed Peter from the man he was to the man we see in this passage?

This is a quote from Psalm 118:22. Jesus also quoted this exact verse at the end of his Parable of the Talents in Luke 20:17. What does it mean? The cornerstone of *what*?

Bible References:

Acts 4:1-4 The priests, the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

Acts 4:5-12 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

Jesus is:

"the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone."

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“There is no other name than Jesus by which we must be saved.”

Why does this idea rub so many people the wrong way, and how is it actually the most inclusive truth claim the world has ever heard?

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

“...they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Jesus’ message was deeply offensive to religious leaders because he insisted that they were every bit as sinful as prostitutes and tax collectors were. His message wasn’t *religious* - go to the Temple and pay your dues! - it was a message of *grace and repentance* - you’re a sinner like everyone else, but you’re forgiven, so repent.

Acts 4:13-20 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

What’s so offensive about REPENTANCE to people like these religious leaders?

Coming to Jesus will always make you aware of your sinfulness. How is that actually an act of love?

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

“But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say...”

The rulers, et. al., could not deny what Peter and John had done in Jesus’ name. The evidence was standing right in front of them! But still, they could not bring themselves to believe.

What do you think keeps people from surrendering their lives to Jesus - even after they’ve seen the evidence for themselves?

Why is it so important to verbalize the name of Jesus in our everyday lives?

In whose name do you live, speak, work, and love? Your family’s name? Your company’s name? Your own name? How can you more intentionally proclaim the name of Jesus in your everyday life?

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