

## No Other Name – Part I

### ❖ Recap:

- **Remember that the Holy Spirit has come as promised**
  - Remember that the Holy Spirit is given to us by God when we believe
    - He is a down payment of sorts from God
    - A promise of being eternally united with God
- **The Disciples have begun telling people about Jesus**
  - How He was born, lived, died brutally and resurrected from the dead
  - And all those chosen by God, are giving their lives to Him...
- **The Disciples are preaching that People repent and Believe the Gospel**
  - Turn from their sins, and false way of thinking
  - And trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation
- **In ch. 3 Peter heals a lame man of over 40 years**
  - Amazing...
  - And they guy gets really excited
  - A crowd forms...
  - And Peter preaches and teaches people the about Jesus
- **And this is where we are:**
  - A huge crowd has formed there at the temple...
  - It was a very significant crowd...
  - Because in ch.2 : 3,000 men have become believers
  - And by the end of this scene, we see the number at 5,000
    - I am unsure if 2,000 of this crowd came to believe in Jesus...
    - But the number leads you to believe there is a very significant amount of people there

### ❖ Intro:

- I want us to examine the first 12 verses of Acts 4
- And I want us to pay special attention to vs 8-12
  - Verses 1-7 set the scene and the context for what Peter has to say about Jesus
  - There is much to learn here
  - And much to put into practice
- There are some main themes I want you to grasp before we leave:
  - 1) Persecution is an opportunity to see God's Sovereignty
  - 2) The Preaching of the Gospel is Central in the life of the Believer
  - 3) Israel's Real Purpose, and that of the Church
    - Understand what the fruit of the kingdom should be.
    - Meaning I want you to see the connection b/w Jesus as the Corner Stone
    - And his parable about his disobedient servants
  - 4) The Healed man is a picture of Salvation
  - 5) Life after death is Exclusive to the name of Jesus

Acts 4:1-12 "And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup> But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. <sup>5</sup> On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-

priestly family. <sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup> if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

❖ **1) Persecution Arises** (Lets see if we can set the scene)

- “And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

➤ **Remember:**

- Peter is in the middle of preaching to a large crowd

➤ **Greatly Annoyed:**

- They were actually a little more than annoyed... they were upset
- They were very angry...

➤ **Where did it come from?**

- Priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees
- **The captain of the Temple was like the second man in charge behind the High Priest**
  - He was like the police... He kept order there at the temple
- **So there were also a bunch of priests**
  - And these guys were from the tribe of Levi... Who was one of Jacob’s sons
  - And these guys rotated... so you got to serve in the temple rarely.
- **Then He points out specifically the Sadducees...**
  - The Sadducees were a very powerful group and they held some different beliefs
  - They were political and religious...
  - And they were very liberal...
  - They were liberal with their understanding of the Bible
  - In a sense... they were very open minded with their theology...
  - They did not necessarily follow the Bible exactly like it says... they were liberal with it
- **The Sadducees:**
  - Believed there was <sup>1</sup>no resurrection, <sup>2</sup>no future rewards from God and also <sup>3</sup>there would be no punishment either
  - They also <sup>4</sup>believed that man was in control of how things turned out in life
    - ◆ They did not have a high view of God’s Sovereignty
  - <sup>5</sup>They also did not believe in angels and demons... the spiritual realm
- **These guys possessed the most power... The High Priest came from the Sadducees**
  - They had a lot of power

➤ **Why did it come? Why were they upset?**

- **Well just imagine if you would... Someone coming into this church and starting to talk**
  - And then just going on and on about something you did not believe
  - Or something that totally went against what you taught...
- **Remember: These guys are the spiritual leaders in Jerusalem in Israel...**
  - They taught the people and led the people...

- **What were the disciples doing that made them angry**
  - **1 Because they taught**
    - They should not have been teaching in the first place right?
    - Who gave them the right
  - **2 Because they taught about Jesus**
    - On top of teaching... these unlearned men were teaching about Jesus
    - They same Jesus they sent to be crucified
    - The one they condemned and rejected as Messiah...
    - So they are all so upset
  - **3 Because they taught about Jesus and the resurrection of the dead**
    - Then Peter and John go a step beyond just teaching about Jesus
    - And they begin telling about the Resurrection of Jesus...
    - And most of these guys did not even believe in a resurrection...
  - **Therefore: They were Greatly annoyed**
- **The Results:**
  - Peter and John are arrested
  - <sup>3</sup> **And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.**
    - One of the strangest things about this story is that they are arrested
    - Peter and John are minding their business on their way to Temple to pray
      - ◆ I am sure they are excited about spending some time in prayer
      - ◆ And they see a man and they have compassion toward him...
      - ◆ And they heal the guy
    - They guy gets excited and a crowd forms...
      - ◆ And they were all wondering what is going...
    - So Peter explains to them that Jesus healed the man...
  - **So, because they did something great and nice...**
    - And told the truth about what happened and where the power came from...
    - They get arrested... that is crazy
  - **That is how upside down their world had become...**
    - And ours is well...
    - Woe are we when we call evil good and good evil...
    - When We begin to persecute those who are true and right
- **But nothing can stop God!**

## ❖ 2) Many Believe the Gospel

- <sup>4</sup> **But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.**
- **The lame man is healed... and there is an opportunity to preach the gospel...**
  - And notice: That is specifically what Peter had done...
    - Used the opportunity to point the people around Him to Jesus
  - And the way He pointed them to Jesus
    - Was by declaring the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
    - And explained to them how they too might be saved...
- **Many Believe:**
  - Much to the chagrin of the temple leaders
    - A large number of people believed...
    - So again... you see God's seeking of His people

- You see how He used a fisherman to heal a man and then point the crowd to the true Healer
  - JESUS

### ❖ 3) The Rulers Question the Apostles

- <sup>5</sup> On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”

#### ➤ Set this scene:

- **The Two disciples find themselves before the Council here...**
  - This was the Sanhedrin the High Council in Israel... Like the Supreme Court in our land
  - It was made up of 70 people just like Moses had 70 elders appointed to help him lead
  - It has 70 plus the High Priest making it 71...
  - **And we see here Annas who was high priest before Caiaphas**
    - ◆ And they still refer to him that way
    - ◆ He probably ran the show
  - And we see Caiaphas who was the High Priest at the time
  - And then John and Alexander... likely part of the High Priest Family
- **And they gather in a semi circle**
  - And set the disciples in the middle of them... and they start asking them questions...
  - Namely they have this one big question...
  - **And they ask it a number of times it seems from the reading ...**
    - ◆ “By what power or by what name did you do this?”
    - ◆ And Here we see things set up perfectly for Peter and John

#### ➤ Let's Look at two things in particular: God is Sovereign and Responding to Persecution

- **1) God's Sovereignty – Remember God is in total control**
  - ◆ I know this is very hard for us to understand...
  - ◆ When there is so much sin... and you wonder how God can sit back and allow it
  - ◆ Especially when so many things go bad
  - ◆ And there is so much chaos in the world...
  - ◆ But the scriptures are clear when it comes to God being in control
- **Lets Examine a set of verses in Isaiah that we have referenced part of, many times...**
  - ◆ **Isaiah 46:8-13** “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, <sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ <sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. <sup>12</sup> “Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness: <sup>13</sup> I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.”
  - ◆ **Notice: God is telling sinners to recognize His Sovereignty...**
    - He says recall it to mind, you transgressors...
    - God know there is sin... and it is part of His plan...
      - He has allowed men and demons and angels and satan to rebel against Him...
      - He has allowed that...
    - But He says, do not forget:
      - That He is God and there is no one like Him

- And He declares the end from the beginning...
    - Before they are even done...
  - He reminds them that all of His counsel shall stand...
  - He tells them He is able to control the animals
    - And that He can call His people from far countries and they will come
    - If He speaks, it will come to pass
    - Again He says... I have purposed it, and it will come to pass
  - Then you see Him appeal to the Sinner... the rebellious one...
    - Those that have forgotten God, who have neglected Him...
    - Who have set themselves up as Sovereign over their own lives...
  - He says... : Listen to me you stubborn of heart... you who are far off from righteousness...
  - I'm bringing salvation... It is coming... I am bringing healing...
- **1) God is Sovereign**
- **So Here these stubborn rulers and elders have gathered together**
    - After they were behind the killing of the Messiah...
    - And Has gathered them together in His mercy
    - Allowed them to imprison His friends, His servants...
  - **And now they are going to hear the truth about themselves and the Gospel of God**
    - Offering this salvation to them...
- **2) Response to Persecution**
- Peter and John just go right along with their own arrest...
  - **They do not object to being arrested... do not fight back**
    - A far cry from the Peter who cut off the ear of one guy coming to arrest Jesus...
    - I think they have recognized by now that God is Sovereign
  - **How Else?**
    - Could they get an audience with EVERY single substantial leader in Israel
    - All the leaders gathered together to ask them a very simple question...
      - ◆ **“By what power or by what name did you do this?”**
    - That is the perfect question isn't it?
    - I'm pretty sure Peter and John are going to know exactly what to do with that...
  - **What an Awesome lesson for us to learn:**
    - When persecution arises... Look for the hand of God in it...
    - Peter was walking with the Lord in such a way... that Luke says He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
    - Look for God's Sovereign hand in persecution...
  - **The Bible has a lot to say about persecution...**
    - Lets look at just two though... One from Jesus... and the other from Peter who endured this
    - **Jesus gave us a reason to rejoice... and something to look forward to with persection**
      - ◆ **Matt 5:10-12**<sup>10</sup> **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**
      - ◆ **Jesus says we are a blessed person to be persecuted**
        - The persecuted inherit the kingdom of God
        - There will be a great reward... and we should rejoice over it
    - **Peter helps us understand God's purpose when He allows us to be persecuted...**

- ◆ 1 Peter 2:12 <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
  - This verse points out that our persecution leads people to God...
  - Don't you want this
- ◆ 1 Peter 2:15 <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
  - Your godly living silences the foolish
- ◆ 1 Peter 2:21-23 <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.
  - An example in Jesus... He did not return their threats...
  - Rather He entrusted Himself to God who judges justly...

➤ **So, Never fear or run from persecution**

- **Invite it...** Know that God is at work for His own glory and you get to be a part of it...
- **But: Do not have a martyr complex...**
  - Do not purposely invite persecution...
  - Do not try to act the martyr over every little thing...
  - Do not purposely cause your family to suffer so you can seem to be suffering for God
    - ◆ When in fact you are being selfish... or even lazy
- **But do not run from it when it comes...**

➤ **The biggest area of persecution in our country is an attack on our pride and ego**

- We do not see a lot of people beaten and imprisoned here in America...
- We see it a lot in other countries...
- Apparently Satan is more sophisticated over here ...
- He attacks our status...

➤ **Satan gets people to make fun of Christians...**

- To belittle their morals...
- To make them seem like they are being judgmental...
- He tries to shame Christians for their stands against sin
- Or He makes people feel like they are missing out on something when they do not participate

➤ **Christians are shamed and shunned**

- In the Media, in the Workplace, in School, among friends and even in church...

➤ **Make a Stand for Jesus**

- Not in Pride... but in humility and kindness toward those who do not understand the truth
- And when it calls for it... Great boldness...
- Be Bold for Jesus

➤ **A Terrible Trend in our Country (I would love to say more about this)**

- **Take the debate on Homosexuality**
  - It is no surprise that Bible Believing Christians say it is a sin
  - And our modern culture sees it as an acceptable way of living
- **Any time someone takes a stand against it...**
  - There is great persecution brought out against that person...
- **But what is the Christian community's response?**
  - Is it Christ-like?
  - No, often it is not... We start petitions...

- And have special Chik fil et days where we go and stuff our faces following the sin of:
  - ◆ Gluttony And over Indulgence
- And then we bad mouth all the gay people and those that stand up for them...
- And we get on Facebook and show how far off we are when it comes to understanding Christ likeness...
- We get angry and call people names etc...
- **Not everyone is like this...**
  - And it is not bad to stand up for causes by eating at places...
  - But... We are fighting the symptoms and not the real problem... Which is unbelief in Jesus
  - Let us remember that Homosexuality and gluttony and drunkenness and adultery
    - Are all greivous sin in the eyes of God
    - And such were all of us and maybe worse
    - If not for the grace of God
- **Would it not be better:**
  - To use this as a time to share the gospel with the World and our friends?
  - Isn't that what Peter and John did?
- **So we must be compassionate toward those that are unbelievers**
  - Those that are lost and unable to see the truth...
  - We can not expect them to live by the light because they walk in darkness...
- **Let it never be said that the Lost and sinful person**
  - Can not find a warm and welcoming seat here at Hope Church...

#### ❖ 4) Peter Proclaims Jesus to the Rulers

- <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,
- **Peter Respectfully Addresses the Leaders:**
  - And He is hilarious to me when He does...
  - He is like... Well... we were on our way to pray yesterday, then we did a good deed for a cripple
  - So if we are being examined for healing this crippled man...
  - If that is what you are concerned with... our good deed...
  - Well, let me tell you by what means it happened...
  - **Peter says:**
    - let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.... by him this man is standing before you well.
    - So, Peter is able to declare Jesus to the whole council...
    - And He says, let it be know to you... and to All of Israel... let everyone know how this healing occurred...
  - **Peter now gives the gospel to all of the main leaders in Israel...**
    - And you see how He does it...
      - ◆ by showing sin, showing Jesus death, and resurrection,
      - ◆ Using the O.T. to point to Jesus as messiah, and offering a chance for them to respond
    - And I want you to see **6 main exaltations** of Jesus that Peter gives the council...
- **6 Exaltations of Jesus Christ of Nazareth:**
- **1) Jesus Whom You crucified**
  - that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified,

- **1) You crucified Jesus**
  - He points out their sins... They rejected Him...
  - They put Him on trial... and chose for a murderer to be released instead of Jesus...
  - They were responsible for His death... and Peter makes it very clear to them...
- **2) Jesus gave Himself up for the sins of man**
  - Yet here we see the kindness, patience and mercy of God toward them...
  - No matter what they did... God is offering them forgiveness
  - **Jesus being crucified was for the purpose of being a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind**
    - ◆ All men of the past, present and future...
    - ◆ The murder of Abel by his brother Cain... if Cain turned back to God
    - ◆ The sins of Esau, the brothers of Joseph
    - ◆ The sins of David and Saul
    - ◆ All our sins... Jesus' death was an acceptable sacrifice for our sins to be removed...
    - ◆ If we believe
- **2) Jesus Whom God Raised from the Dead**
  - **whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.**
  - **God Raised Jesus from the grave**
    - It could not hold Him... it was impossible for death to hold Him
    - Peter told the crowd the day before that Jesus is the author of Life
    - John tells us in John 1 that everything that was ever made was made by Jesus
    - Author of Hebrews tells us that it was through Jesus that God made all things
    - So, His body died, but it came back to life...
  - **Jesus is the Resurrection**
    - **Matt 11:25<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.**
  - **Resurrection from death is offered to all those who believe in Jesus...**
    - Not just resurrection, but never seeing death...
    - That we will not even taste death
      - ◆ **John 8:52 (Pharisees say,) 'yet you say, if anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'**
- **3) Jesus Caused This Man to Stand Before You Healed**
  - **by him this man is standing before you well.**
  - Jesus Heals... it was by the Power of Jesus...
    - Peter's faith in Jesus brought Healing to the man...
  - Jesus still heals today through the Faith of His followers
- **4) Jesus is the Stone Rejected by You, the Builders**
  - **<sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.**
  - **Selection of Stones... and Corner Stones...**
    - When Building the would select the straightest for the corner...
    - so the building would be straight : they would examine the stones
  - **Their examination of Jesus**
    - They found Him to be a blasphemer... because He told them the truth
    - And they kicked Him out and rejected Him, instead of anointing Him King
    - Instead of Worshipping Him...
    - And this is exactly what Jesus told them would happen before He died...
  - **Bear with me this morning and lets look at a parable of Jesus in the book of Matthew**
    - I want you all to turn there, and lets see a connection b/w what Jesus said in Matthew



- The events that occurred with His trial and crucifixion
- And what Peter is telling the leaders in Acts 4...
- **Matt 21:33-46** <sup>33</sup> “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup> When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup> And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”
- <sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”
- <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “ ‘*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes*’? <sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup> And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”
- <sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.
- **The Parable: Is about a Master who rented out His land to some tenants...**
  - And they were to bear fruit in it...
  - And to give the Master the fruit that was His...
  - Instead... they beat and killed the Master’s servants and even His son
- **The Response: The Priests and Pharisees got this right... they saw it as a terrible act**
  - They judge that the master would put the miserable wretches to death for it...
- **Jesus points out the rejection of the cornerstone**
  - So Jesus connects the Parable to an O.T. text from Ps 118... a prophecy concerning the Messiah
  - And He is saying that the rejection of the Son of the Master of the parable
    - ◆ Is equal to the rejection of the Stone that becomes the cornerstone
- **Then Peter uses the same O.T. verse here to reiterate things to the Leaders...**
  - Many of them were likely there when Jesus warned them of what they were doing
  - And now Peter Connects it all... From Psalms, to Jesus in Matthew to Peter in the book of Acts
  - The prophecy has come full circle...
  - And Peter is pointing out that it was this Jesus that they crucified
  - He was and is the Messiah King
- **Notice the Fruit Bearing:**
  - He tells them that God would take the kingdom and give it to people that will produce its fruit
  - And the fruit of the kingdom is the salvation of Souls...
  - It is bringing more people into the kingdom...
  - Although you can also bear fruit by how you live, how you act as well...
- **Israel Had not bore fruit...**
  - They were fruitless...
  - Their purpose was to be a nation where people could come to know the Lord
  - But instead the were very inward focused...
  - **This is the premise behind Jesus getting angry and overturning the tables in the temple**
    - ◆ They were using the court of the gentiles as a place for commerce and not a place

◆ For gentiles to come and know the Lord

- **Matt 11:17 <sup>17</sup> And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”**

➤ **5) Jesus Has Become the Cornerstone**

- Not only was Jesus a good stone for the building of the kingdom...
- He was the chief cornerstone...
  - He was the one that the rest of the building, the kingdom would be built off of...
- Unless a person came became a part of this building built from this cornerstone...
  - they would perish

➤ **6) No Other Name Can Give Salvation**

- **In the beginning of the questioning, the leaders asked Peter and John:**
  - By what power or name they did this...
  - And Peter asks them back... if you are asking by what power this man has been healed...
  - And then he tells them it is Jesus...
- **For the word Healed: He uses the greek word sesotai from the root word sozo**
  - And it means to rescue, save or heal
- **And then, playing off that word... Peter tells them...**
  - Salvation is in no one else...
  - And He uses a word with a similar meaning...
  - Soteria – meaning deliverance or salvation...
- **In the same way that this man’s healing came from Jesus,**
  - So also is Salvation available to all men through Jesus

- ❖ **<sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**
  - Salvation in no one else
  - No other name under heaven
  - Given Among Men
  - By which we must be saved

❖ Invitation