

ONE message. people. mission.



The Power of a Name (Pt. 2)

Acts 4:1-31

Overview

- **Persecution comes with advancement of the Gospel**
 - Religious leaders stop because preaching is having an effect
 - Peter & John thrown into prison put on trial
 - In face of opposition Peter preaches the Gospel
- **Leaders couldn't dispute the healing, and they have no reason to keep them, so they release them and they tell them not to preach in the Name of Jesus**
 - Power of the Name: "Name" of Jesus mentioned a great deal in this passage
 - Acts 3:6, 16, 4:7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 30
 - Name is so powerful it even notes that "uneducated" men have "power" (4:13)
 - Pray for Boldness in this name in the face of opposition that Christ would advance (4:29)
- **Only by this Name that man can be saved**
 - Salvation is only found in the Name of Jesus (4:12)
 - Everyone makes exclusive claims
 - Religious or Atheistic: We all say either (1) This is only way or (2) This is the only way to think about all the ways
 - Cannot believe in two competing truths at the same time
 - Islam, Buddhism, Atheism, are all making claims: They all cannot all be true
 - If God existed, wouldn't He care how He was imaged or worshiped?
 - Even we care how we are treated, how much more would God?
 - We cannot worship God in our own Image, but His
 - Do we Christians really believe this? If we did we would share it!
 - There is Power in His Name, His Name is the one who regenerates: Not yours: confidence
 - Challenge: Memorize & Pray 4:29, then share Gospel with someone this week

Questions

Discussion Starter: What are some names that have "power" in our society. How is Jesus' name is different.

Transition: In Acts 3 & 4, how is Jesus' name different?

1. Why is it that when the Gospel advances it tends to bring persecution?
2. What is the motive behind the religious leaders in quieting Peter and John?
3. Why is the author talking so much about "the Name"?

4. In evangelization, how is it we can have confidence given the “power of the Name?”
5. Discuss 4:12 and why that must be true.
6. How are claims against exclusivity actually exclusive themselves and therein self defeating? How is it we all actually think exclusively about matters of faith?
7. If the Christian faith believes that God must be worship exclusively through Jesus (and we do), what are some ways that we still live as though this is not true (i.e. living as functional universalists)?
8. Where are some areas we can improve in calling people to this Gospel?
9. What keeps you from obedience in making known the Name of Christ?

Accountability Question: How are you living like a ‘functional’ universalist?