

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

This Jesus
Acts 4:1-22

Acts 4

¹ And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² 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.”

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

... 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

That Jesus

² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ **This Jesus** is the stone that **was rejected** by you, the builders, which has become the **cornerstone**.

**Who Is
Jesus?**



Side = Wall

Tusk = Spear

Trunk = Snake

Leg = Tree

Ear = Fan

Tail = Rope



**Above or
Among**

**Just or
Forgiving**

**Wrath or
Loving**

This Jesus



**Above &
Among**

**Just &
Forgiving**

**Wrath &
Loving**

¹² 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.”

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God...A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

CS Lewis, Mere Christianity

Because of Jesus...

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that *they had been with Jesus.*

“Nothing to Lose”

The Gospel is the great servant-unifier, welcoming to and empowering anybody regardless of race, gender, sin, baggage...

The Gospel creates new and unchangeable personal value.

Because of Jesus...

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

“Everything to Give”

We don’t need all the answer, only a relationship with Jesus.

Jesus-followers have been rescued from utter desperation and are motivated to sacrificially love others as “better than themselves”

**Nothing to Lose
Everything to Give**

Because of Jesus...

Believe:

...that Jesus really is God who came to live, die and raise to rescue us from our rebellion and deserved death.

Confess:

...how I create a Jesus that is comfortable to me.

And how much more I need Jesus than I ever realized.

Because of Jesus...

Give:

...that which I've been given.

The Gospel is absolutely anti-arrogance, necessarily calling us to serve others regardless. It is shockingly INCLUSIVE.

Listen:

"If I have only an hour with someone, I will spend the first 55 minutes asking questions and finding out what is troubling their heart and mind, and then in the last 5 minutes I will share something of the truth."

Francis Schaeffer