

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY NOTES - November 5, 2017

Pastor Les Smith

SERIES: Preparing the Church to Leave the Building

SERMON: There is Something About That Name

Text: Acts 4:1-11

Central Message:

The name of Jesus is more powerful than any other name on earth. There is power in the name, there is authority in the name, there is healing in the name, and there is salvation in the name.

General Observations

Chapter 4 of Acts is the beginning of persecution against the new church. In almost every chapter after chapter 4, the focus will be on persecution. But the good news is that throughout biblical history it has been proven that "haters" are going to hate. Despite this fact, it has also been proven that opposition is no match for the power in the name of Jesus.

Peter concluded his second message and members of the religious establishment demanded to know by what authority and by what power he was proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. They were so upset that they tossed Peter and John in jail, but the jail could not confine the message of the gospel. There were at least four observations that can be elicited from the text.

There is POWER in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:1-4)

Peter and John had just finished preaching when they were confronted by members of the Jewish religious establishment. They were concerned that the preaching of the apostles was upsetting the status quo. Because they had the

power to do so, they cast Peter and John into jail. Despite their confinement, the message of the gospel could not be confined and the number of converts grew to 5,000 men plus women and children.

The lesson is simple...*you can arrest the gospel messenger but you cannot arrest the message of the gospel.*

There is AUTHORITY in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:5-7)

The big question on the minds of the religious authorities was the question of authority, so they released Peter and John from jail and placed them in the midst of an intimidating group. Their question...“Where do you get the authority to preach like this?” The leaders knew that Peter and John had no formal theological training, but they also knew that they had “been with Jesus”. Jesus had declared already that God had given Him all authority in heaven and on earth, and He delegated some of that authority to the apostles. He authorized them to speak in His name.

The lesson for us is this: there is authority in the name of Jesus, and as long as our ministry is in His name, we have all the authority we need.

There is HEALING in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:8-10)

As much as they would have liked, the Jewish leaders could not deny that a great miracle had taken place. The man who was previously lame stood before them completely healed. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter seized upon this fact. The formerly timid Peter had, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, become the “Rock”. He confronted them with their guilt in the death of Christ. Peter then boldly proclaimed that the crucified Christ was not the risen Savior, and it was in His name that the lame man had been healed.

The lesson for us is this: God has given us His Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit has the power to heal not just broken bodies, but broken spirits as well.

There is SALVATION in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:11-12)

Peter concluded his defense with a quote from Psalm 118, with which he was sure the priests and scribes would be familiar. He told them that the stone (Jesus Christ) that the builders (the Sanhedrin) rejected (crucified) had been elevated (resurrected from the dead) to become the chief corner stone (Savior of the world). Peter closed his argument with an even more powerful statement. He asserted that there was salvation in no other name because the name of Jesus was the only Savior.

The lesson for us is this: there is no new gospel, the wage of sin is still death, and the free gift of life comes only through Jesus Christ. He who has the Son has life...He who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)