**ACTS and US**

**Acts 4 – NO OTHER NAME**

**Peter and John had just healed the lame man at the gate in Jerusalem. The crowds were amazed and gathered around them at the Temple. Peter took the opportunity to preach to them, a similar message that he spoke during Pentecost, telling them that they killed Jesus, the “Prince of Life” and need to repent!**

**4:1**The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. **2**They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. **3**They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. **4**But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

**5**The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. **6**Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest’s family. **7**They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

**(they could have easily answered in one word; “Jesus”!, but instead…)**

**8**Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9**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, **10**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. **11**Jesus is

“‘the stone you builders rejected,
    which has become the cornerstone.’

**12Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”**

**13**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. **14**But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. **15**So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. **16**“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. **17**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.”

**18**Then they called them in again and *commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.****1*9**But Peter and John replied, “*Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him?*You be the judges! **20**As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

**21**After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. **22**For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

**Persecution was beginning to heat up. They knew that things were going to get bad for followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, so what did they do?, Run away?, Rise up and revolt?, keep silent? No, they PRAYED.**

**23**On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. **24**When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. **25**You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“‘Why do the nations rage
    and the peoples plot in vain?
**26**The kings of the earth rise up
    and the rulers band together
against the Lord
    and against his anointed one.

**27**Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. **28**They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. **29**Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. **30**Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

**31**After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

**The power of God was upon them heavily, they were completely united in heart, mind and even possessions.**

**32**All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. **33**With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all **34**that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales **35**and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

**36**Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), **37**sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

**This is the same Barnabas who become a leader in the church, the one who brought Paul along and vouched for him, he was called an Apostle in Acts 14:14.**

**ACTS 4:12 “12**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

**John 14:6 “**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Ending:**

**Phil 2:9-11 “**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
    and gave him the name that is above every name,
**10**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
**11**and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
    to the glory of God the Father.