



A MORE INCLUSIVE EXCLUSIVITY – ACTS 4:12-22

GETTING STARTED

Does anyone really know the truth? It's amazing how often these words get used in discussion around things like politics, court cases or even just a car accident. So, if we are so uncertain about what takes place every day around us, how can we be certain about salvation? How can we really know that Jesus is the only way to be saved? Aren't all religions basically the same? How can we be so closed minded as to say, we are the only ones who have the truth? If you've ever shared your faith, you've probably run across questions like these before, so how do we answer them? What do we say about such an exclusive offer of salvation? Yet that is the message of Jesus; he and he alone is the one who holds salvation for everyone who would believe.

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 4:12-22

¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

¹³Now 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. ¹⁴But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵But when they had commanded them to leave the council,



they conferred with one another, ¹⁶saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But 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, ²⁰for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” ²¹And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. In this passage how is “the name of Jesus” used? How does Peter use it? How does the council use it? Also consider John 14:13-14. What do we learn about the name of Jesus?
2. Why was the council unable to do anything to Peter and John? How had God orchestrated the situation to keep his disciples safe?

[Extra verses for studying this passage: John 14:6; John 3:16-21]

APPLY THE TEXT

3. How would you answer an unbeliever who says, “There are many ways to God”? Or, “All religions are basically the same”?
4. How do we sometimes act as a functional atheist? How do we hold on to the exclusivity of the gospel while still being kind and welcoming to those around us?

SHARE & PRAY

1. As we study the book of Acts, think carefully about 1 or 2 people that you would like to actively share the gospel with. Share them with your life group and hold one another accountable in prayer and support.



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2. In light of Acts 4:12-22, pray that would instill in us a confidence in the message of Jesus to reach and to transform the hearts of those around us to hear and receive the one message of salvation for all people.

