

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **October 27, 2019** sermon, "No Other Name." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 4:1-12) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN OPPOSITION TO GOD'S WORK INTENSIFIES, NOTE . . .

1. The opposing reactions to God's work (1-4)
 - a. Even when the evidence about Jesus' authority is clear, most will deny it (1-3)
 - i. The lame man could walk! But even the religious leaders were annoyed by it.
 - ii. When Jesus upsets human authority structures, expect persecution.
 - b. Some people will accept and receive (believe) the authority of Jesus Christ (4)
2. The critical question about God's work (5-7)
 - a. A miracle has been done, so they ask: "By what power? By what name?"
 - i. The critical question in this world is "Who says?" or "By what authority."
 - ii. Political correctness: "public opinion is the authority of our generation."
 - iii. Christianity: "Christ alone is the authority who has final say over everything."
 - b. Peter and John have already made it clear (see 3:6). They are witnesses to Jesus!
3. The supreme name in God's work (8-12)
 - a. Human responsibility for the death of Jesus Christ is universal.
 - b. God's authority over death and life is seen in Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
 - c. The exclusive means of God's grace is Jesus Christ risen from the dead.
 - i. There is "no other name," and therefore salvation is found in Jesus alone.
 - ii. Every human "must" be saved, therefore repentance is commanded.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The name of Jesus divides humanity: some question and doubt, some believe and some are arrested and persecuted because of his name. Where do you see radically different reactions to the name of Jesus Christ in your personal relationships and conversations?
2. Based on #1, above: Peter does not talk about politics, morality or the weather. He was teaching and proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Why is this such a perfect "on-ramp" in our generation? Why should we avoid trying to convince unbelievers of a Christian political or moral position before they have believed in Christ?
3. Based on #2, above: God alone has authority over all the earth, and he has shown us his authority in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But we live in a generation which has re-defined freedom, happiness and identity. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes. How can we engage the minds and hearts of this generation with the "who says?" question?
4. Based on #3, above: How do we know that Christianity is not simply an arrogant religion of bigots and "haters"? How do you respond to this criticism? Why are all religions NOT equally valid? (Read verse 12 out loud!) Discuss: "Jesus is the exclusive means of God's saving grace."