

The Name of Jesus

Acts chapters 3-5 record the healing of a lame man and the resulting opposition. The whole narrative can be summarized by focusing on the verses that mention the name of Jesus. In this is a great lesson about the power of His name even now.

Peter and John encountered the lame man begging alms at the temple...

Acts 3:6 – Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

The people in the temple gathered around in amazement, and Peter declared,

Acts 3:16 – “And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”

The Sadducees had Peter and John arrested and brought before the Council of the Jews (the Sanhedrin).

Acts 4:7 – And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?”

Acts 4:8-12 – ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰let it be known to you all, 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 stands here before you whole. ¹¹This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ ¹²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Rather than believe Peter and John, the Council conferred together and said to one another,

Acts 4:17-18 – ¹⁷“But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.” ¹⁸So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

Peter and John rejected the command but were released anyway. When they gathered with their fellow disciples, they all prayed.

Acts 4:29-30 – ²⁹“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

When the apostles went on preaching in the name of Jesus, they were all arrested.

Acts 5:27-28 – ²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?”

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And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

A member of the Council named Gamaliel advised them to release the apostles.

Acts 5:40-41 – ⁴⁰And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

The name of Jesus was powerful then, and it is powerful now. It is still the only name that brings salvation. The Lord's opponents continue to demand that speech in the name of Jesus must cease, but we who are Christians must refuse their demands. If we suffer shame for His name, then let us rejoice, but we cannot stop speaking the blessed name of Jesus.