

Series: Living Out Our Purpose
The Power to Reach People for Christ

(Go reach the Lost through Evangelism)

Acts 4:1-12 (NIV)

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. ²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

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

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then 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." ¹¹He is

*"the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the capstone."*

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

1. THE GOSPEL IS DISTURBING TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ACCEPTED IT.

vv. 1-2 "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. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead."

- If the lost had no problem with the gospel, everyone who heard the good news would be saved.
- We must prepare ourselves for some rejection and even some hostility.
- We learn to separate rejection of the gospel from rejection of us.

2. WE NEVER KNOW THE READINESS OF SOMEONE WE TALK TO.

v. 4 "But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand."

- Our job is to share, it's God's job to bring salvation.
- Not all who heard believed, but many did.
- Since we cannot know who is ready and who is not, we must be ready.

3. THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES COMES FROM GOD, NOT OUR ABILITIES.

v. 7 "They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?'"

- The power we possess to make a difference is limited.
- Changed lives cause the world to take notice.
- When we operate by the power of God, mighty things happen.

4. THE NAME OF JESUS MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

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

- Jesus is the only way that we can get to heaven.

John 14:6 (NIV)

- Jesus is the only name that has power enough to bring healing.

Acts 3:16 (NIV)

- Jesus is the only name that will one day command supreme devotion.

Philippians 2:10 (NIV)