

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Acts 4:1-12

Introduction: The religious leaders at Jerusalem seemed to have been stunned by what happened on the day of Pentecost (Jesus followers acting so funny, as if drunk, Peter's preaching, many turning to follow Jesus, etc.) however they quickly rallied their forces against the apostles. From this time on, followers of Jesus were persecuted by the Jewish leaders.

I. PETER AND JOHN WERE ARRESTED FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL (vv1-4)

1. After healing the lame man, having the attention of the crowd, Peter and John preached Jesus Christ.
2. They were in the Temple area.
3. They could not do anything else for that was what the Lord wanted them to do, so they obeyed.

II. WITH GREAT BOLDNESS THEY PREACHED ABOUT JESUS IN THE MIDST OF HIS ENEMIES (vv1-2)

1. The principle point of their message was the resurrection of the dead.
2. They did not preach about social affairs, social reform, immorality or any other issue.
3. They pointed everyone there to Jesus Christ:
 - The Death of Jesus Christ as the Substitute for Sinners.
 - The Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the Representative of God's Elect.
 - The Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord over all.
 - The Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
 - Salvation and Eternal Life to All Who Trust Jesus Christ.
4. Two sermons were preached and the Church grew from 120 to over 8,000 in Jerusalem, alone.
5. The religious leaders were offended and grieved.
 - Pride was hurt - Jesus Christ was glorified - they lost their hold on the people
6. Peter and John were arrested.
 - The beginning of persecution of God's Church started then.
 - The cause of persecution of the Church is always the preaching of the Gospel.

III. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS TRIED TO INTIMIDATE THE APOSTLES INTO SILENCE (vv8-10)

1. The men of greatest respect, power and influence (the Sanhedrin) put Peter and John on trial.
2. Peter had betrayed the Lord Jesus once, but he would never do it again.

3. If Peter said Jehovah God had told them to do what they did, all would have been well.

IV. BOLDLY, PETER PREACHED JESUS CHRIST TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (vv8-10)

1. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. Peter had done exactly what the Lord had commanded him to do.
3. Peter was in the place where God wanted him to be.
4. Peter used the opportunity to confess Jesus Christ.
5. Peter put great emphasis upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus Christ's name is above all names:
 - Precious
 - Power
 - Pardon
 - Prayer
 - Peace
 - Protection
 - Preservation
 - Preaching
 - Prosperity
2. God can do the same thing with you and me if we will follow Peter and John's example.
3. Would you do the same thing if you knew the same thing would happen to you that happened to them?
4. Anytime you witness for Jesus Christ, Satan will try to interfere and **YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED!**