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The Power of Jesus, part 1

The Power of Jesus to Save

Text: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John were unashamed gospel preachers. Their ministry put them in trouble with the powers that be. This time, when they are grilled, the subject was *power.*

“By what power or by what name have you done this?”

These preachers had been used of God to bring healing to a lame man (3:1-7). Clearly, these men were powerful. The rulers want to know the *source* of this power. In Luke 20:1-2, Jesus is asked a similar question. Peter, not shy, addresses the issues of both *power* and *the name.*

Jesus had promised that when an opportunity like this presented itself, the Holy Spirit would give a disciple of Jesus the words to say. Cf. Luke 12:11-12; 21:14-15

Two previous times Peter has used this formula: “You killed him, God raised him.” (2:23-24; 3:15)

Peter uses a double negative to proclaim a singular positive.

The name of Jesus is:

1. Powerful (Acts 3:16; 4:17-18)
2. Unique (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5)

This statement in verse 12 of our text is often called the *exclusivistic scandal* of the Christian faith. Peter says, to these elite Jewish leaders, “Moses cannot save. Abraham cannot save. Isaac cannot save. Jacob cannot save.”

Only Jesus! Only Jesus!

William Barclay, in his commentary on the book of Acts, writes,

*There are two kinds of courage. There is the reckless courage, which is hardly aware of the dangers it is facing. There is the far higher, cool courage, which knows the peril in which it stands and refuses to be daunted.*

In this text, it’s not the mere mention of the name, *Jesus*, that creates a a supernatural event.

Bill and Gloria have written,

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus*

*There’s just something about that name.*

*Master, Savior, Jesus*

*Like the fragrance after the rain*

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus*

*Let all heaven and earth proclaim*

*Kings and kingdoms shall all pass away*

*But there’s something about that name.*

I understand the idea of the song. However, it is not the saying or singing the name that changes us and our circumstances. It is the appeal to the power of the Christ that changes things.

Musician Kurt Carr does an exercise in his concerts. He and his group sing his song, *Something Happens*

*Jesus*

*Something special*

*Supernatural*

*About your name*

*Jesus*

*Something happens*

*When I mention your name*

*Demons have to flee when I say Jesus (Jesus)*

*Sickness has to heal when I say Jesus (Jesus)*

*Every knee shall bow before*

*And every tongue proclaim*

*With worthy praise*

*That matchless name of Jesus*

*Jesus*

*Something special*

*Supernatural*

*About your name*

*Jesus*

*Something happens*

*When I mention your name*

*When I call upon Your name*

*The very atmosphere will have to change*

*We'll be transformed*

*We'll never be the same*

*By the power of Your Holy name*

Then Kurt Carr*,* speaking of the power of the name of Jesus, asks the audience to say, in unison, their mothers’ names. After that, he says, “Nothing happened”. He’ll then sometimes mention Buddha’s name and then says, “Nothing happened.” Then Kurt Carr says the name, *Jesus* and the people erupt in demonstrative, vocal praise. Yes, it’s a bit of a setup, but the truth is my Momma’s name has no power to save and Buddha’s name has no power to save and the names of Vishnu and Krishna are powerless.

Peter and John are not brought before the council because they said, “Jesus” in varied places.

The leaders are upset because the person of the Christ Himself, the embodiment of the name, was unleashed, was made known. Peter and John preached Jesus, the One of the powerful name. Not only did Peter and John appeal to The Name in the healing of the lame man in Acts 3. They also made it clear to the elite leaders that The Name is the only name that can save.

Verse 12 is a statement and an invitation. I extend to you the same invitation. Have you embraced Jesus, the son of God as your hope, your salvation? He saves us from our sin and from ourselves.

What a name!!

Amen