

“The Ministry of Offense”

Acts 4:1-12

Introduction: True gospel preaching is by nature offensive to sinful humanity. In this text, we encounter what may very well be the most offensive in the entire New Testament (Acts 4:12). This verse clearly sets forth the exclusivity of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. When Peter preached this statement to his audience, it was like a sledgehammer decimating their works-based salvation stance. There are two religious paths: the broad way of works righteousness leading to eternal death, or the narrow way of faith in Jesus leading to eternal life. On which path do YOU find yourself?

Key Verse: *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* - Acts 4:12

1). THE AUDIENCE (v. 1).

People of all levels of society were hearing the gospel. Praise God!

The free offer of the gospel is for all. We have a remarkable responsibility to share the good news.

2). THE ARREST (v. 2-4).

The Sadducees—who were they?

Why were they offended by the Apostles’ preaching?

Many who heard the Word believed—about 5,000 men (v. 4).

3). THE ADDRESS (v. 5-12).

The initial question: “By what power or by what name have you done this?” (v. 7)

Filled with the Spirit, Peter addressed his audience and began his ministry of offense! (v. 8)

NO OTHER NAME by which we must be saved.

Making It Personal: R.C. Sproul has written: “If you are a Christian, you should be prepared to die for that affirmation.” He is not wrong. My question to you is this: “Are you ready to LIVE for this affirmation?”