



# Grace Notes

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## Acts 4:1-12

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you 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 is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

*Heavenly Father, give us a love for the name of Jesus, that we gladly and willingly speak it in praise and witness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## No Other Name

Names mean something to most people. In the advertising and marketing world it is important to create brand loyalty, so name and reputation go hand in hand. No explanation is needed when you hear names like, Coke, Starbucks, McDonald's, Ford, Chevy, Toyota, Kleenex, Clorox, Dawn, Apple, iPhone, Timex, Rolex, Crest, or Colgate. Did you have to google any of those words to get their meaning? I didn't think so.

What comes to mind when you hear certain names? How about, Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Kennedy, Mantle, Ruth, DiMaggio, Jordan, James, Magic, Einstein, Wright, or Edison. Did you have to google any of them? Again, I didn't think so.

Names are important. With one word, a name, our minds are flooded with thoughts, emotions, ideas, associations, memories, and feelings. If I were to mention your name, likely you would feel some warmth. (People love the sound of their own name.) If I mention the name of your boss or a coworker, you might have feelings of collegiality, teamwork, and bonding or disgust, jealousy, and resentment. The name of your mother might bring thoughts of affection, nurture and love or guilt, inadequacy, and loathing. It all has to do with the relationship you have with that other person.

What comes to mind with the name Jesus? When Peter and John were on trial before the Jewish ruling council they were questioned about the healing of the crippled beggar. *They inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"* Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, replied, *let it be known to all of you 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 is standing before you well.* At the name of Jesus, a lame man could jump up and walk. For that man, and for Peter and John, the name of Jesus brought thoughts of power and compassion, amazement and joy, wonder and praise.

For the Jewish authorities, who were threatened by Jesus and opposed Him, His name brought thoughts and feelings of jealousy, resentment, and even hatred. They could not stand to hear the name of Jesus, and they forbade the disciples from preaching in His name. However, as Peter points out, *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.*

As the Cornerstone, Jesus is the name that is above all other names. Peter says, *"there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* When we hear the name of Jesus we think of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We are filled with divine grace, mercy, and love. It is as John Newton penned in his hymn:

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary, rest.

### Please pray for:

- Christians everywhere, that they boldly confess the name of Jesus to the world.
- The church's mission to the communities in which she lives.
- The sick and dying, that they may find comfort in the healing name of Jesus.
- The research and understanding of the coronavirus with all its variants.