Acts Chapter 4 Verse 12

* Peter didn’t say that Jesus is ***a*** Way. What he says is that Jesus is **THE** Way. The implication is the ***ONLY*** Way! And some sort of deep seeded evil in man says, *“Isn’t there some other way? Don’t I have options? Can I not choose for myself? Isn’t there some way that I can save myself!?”* Something in us despises the truth that we **HAVE** to do it this way…that there is only one way.
* But here’s the thing. We are spending *billions*, perhaps *trillions* of dollars worldwide to ***research and search and research again*** for a cure for cancer. What if we found just one? ***We would celebrate!*** So what is it with eternal life? What is it with the *narrow path* of Jesus? ***Some sort of spiritual blockage that is only broken by faith! And then the cure arrives…***
* The truth is if you are going to be saved, if ***I*** am going to be made right with God, if ***you*** are going to be made right with God then ***Jesus is going to do it!***

Acts Chapter 4 Verse 13

* The word is *epiginosko* – they understood, they had knowledge because they experienced something, couldn’t escape it…BUT…***wrong!*** They hadn’t *“been with Jesus.”*  They ***were*** with Jesus! Uneducated, untrained, ***wrong again!*** They had 3 years of private training by the greatest Instructor that ever lived! The Instructor that *created all instruction* AND all other instructors! Have you ever had an ***awesome*** teacher! (OF COURSE YOU HAVE – HOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW!? HA!) My, the difference they made, right!? I’ll never forget my sixth grade math teacher, Mr. Warwick! Gallagher hair and a crazy personality but he brought *fractions* to life, man!!!
* Here are some others who were uneducated and untrained and yet they knew the Lord and they knew the scriptures. Charles Spurgeon, D.L. Moody, D. Martin Lloyd-James, Hudson Taylor…BUT, don’t get down if you **ARE** educated! *Oh dang it man, I hate my education!* **HA!** God will use you too!!! Think of Moses who received the greatest education of his time! Think of Daniel, think of Paul…
* But the most important part of any theological or ministerial education is truly and simply this…*just be with Jesus, man!* They perceived their boldness…in the Greek that word for boldness is more than just *straight shoulders* and *stern look*…this word literally means that they had ***confidence, clarity in thought and word***…***mastery in presence*** and I love this…they had ***obvious and some sort of explicit freedom***…this word means, *“Free to tell it all!”* I love that. Truly ***boldness in Christ, pure trust in God alone…closeness to the Lord…births a great freedom within you…***
* Many Bible commentators make this statement here as I made last week, this would have been the **PERFECT** time to *refute and disprove* the ***resurrection*** and completely discredit Peter and John…utterly derail their momentum and the movement that is being born…but notice, ***they did not.*** Why? Because it was *widely known, proven and accepted* that Jesus indeed rose from the dead! So much so this entire group of leading Jews wouldn’t dare speak against it.

Acts Chapter 4 Verse 14

* That’s just a ***lovely fact*** isn’t it…what was the **look** on the healed man’s face like? Huge smile? Eye brows going *up and down?* Oh it would have been a sight to behold!!

Acts Chapter 4 Verses 15 – 18

* This is ***evidence***, plain and clear, crisp and concise, undeniable and yet to them perhaps unperceivable (inconceivable to us), this is such evidence of **corruption of heart**. Such evidence of *weakness of character* and *weakness of any wisdom* on the part of these religious leaders. They can’t perceive, they can’t calculate, they can’t deduce, they can’t conclude…DUMB on display…*what am I talking about?*
* Well, frankly something we do…something I see and hear and experience quite often…***they confirm the miracle, the work of God, the presence of power and truth and yet they refuse it in their lives.*** You say, *“I never do that…”* ***Any time, any time, any time, you hear, learn, know the Word of God…and yet you refuse to yield to God’s way over your own…you refuse…same as these men…***
* And by the way…how does Luke know what they said in their little conference? This is interesting…a member of the Sanhedrin would soon become a Christian…***Saul of Tarsus.*** You never know the extent to which God is using you…that is, ***if you let Him use you.*** You never know the reach of kindness into someone’s heart and life. Or the impact of a word from God…as you share the Word of God with someone…How cool was it after Paul was spreading the Gospel to the gentiles and they were all super excited like the iPhone XI just dropped…how cool was it when Peter was taking a bite of chicken one day (you know, **getting even**) and realized that Paul was there that day…?! Must have been cool!!

Acts Chapter 4 Verses 19 – 20

* Jesus had said in Acts 1:8, *“You shall be My witnesses,”* and here they are, empowered by the Holy Spirit. ***Hidden in Him***! The world around them *hostile and terrifying* and yet they are bold…leading…it’s like they are there but they are not…you know what that is? **Freedom, man!** They are ***with*** God…even more then they are standing there in front of these men…in the world and yet somehow not of the world…and although the problem is right there in front of them in terms of man, in terms of this world…they ***see and hear*** God louder then it all!
* Why? Because of what they had seen and heard? **NO!** Or at least not how you’re probably thinking. They *saw and heard* everything Jesus did before the cross and **yet they hid themselves** after He was crucified…***it’s not their experience that they’re talking about…it’s the filling of the Holy Spirit***…the opening of their eyes and their understanding by His very indwelling presence!!

Acts Chapter 4 Verses 21 – 22

* Notice this…***these religious men deny the truth of God yet they bow to the will and opinion of man***...that is the weakness of sin…do you do that? Remember, you too are man…

Acts Chapter 4 Verses 23 – 31

* I love their **worship!!** They acknowledge God’s *glory*! His *goodness* and His *grandeur.* ***“You are the Maker!”*** They recognize His *sovereignty*…**that He never fails** and He is ultimately never in a position where He turns to Michael and says, *“Man, I’ve lost control…”* But, even in that statement, please know and understand that you and I have responsibility in this life as well! I love what Wiersbe said once while speaking at a Calvary Chapel Pastor’s Conference…
* He said *if I am too Calvinistic then I rob men of responsibility…and if I am too Armenian then I rob God of His sovereignty…I wish to rob no one and so I stand firmly upon middle ground!*
* And I love the **request** of the early church! *Give us relentless courage to speak Your Word!* And listen, “*By stretching out Your hand to* ***heal!!”*** That is completely tied to the previous statement! The previous statement is the *way* to that! ***The Word of God is the way to healing for a man! When it is given and it is received…it heals!***
* Then, the healed life is *full of, flushed with*…signs and wonders! ***Seeing and hearing!!*** Even now a sign…a wonder…right here in this scene, as they pray, **they seek the healing of their enemies, not their destruction!!** Y’all get so mad at folks that cross you, even *passive aggressively*…that’s not what the Spirit desires or does! These followers of Christ **pray** for their enemies and their desire is bless their enemies…that they’d be healed!!

Acts Chapter 4 Verses 32 – 37

* ***Unity is sure evidence of the work of God’s Spirit.*** ***Unity regards people entirely over things!!*** A giving spirit is also…notice the emphasis of the teaching in the early church…the resurrection of Jesus! And truly it should remain that way today. The prosperity gospel continues ***without*** a resurrected Jesus. The self-help gospel continues…the religiosity of man’s church continues…the ***make yourself right*** group continues…the legalistic continues…the cultish gospel continues…but ***the Gospel of lame men standing, the Gospel of grace through faith…hinges upon the resurrection!!***
* If today you are right with God, it is because of Jesus. If today you are **not** right with God, it is because of you…why? Because Right has come and Right has offered Himself even to you…