

Acts 4:8-12

Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam

May, 2023

Do you know what this is? Junk mail. Inside this mail there is an exclusive offer, news of children to save, people to feed, clothes to buy, information on how to increase my wealth, mail that encourages the Meiers to support people, animals and the environment. *** Junk mail entices us to buy something special we can't live without.

Our text is not some junk mail. It's a message from God. Peter and John went to the temple one day to pray. They came across a man crippled from birth. Every day friends of this man would carry him to the temple so he could beg for money. The crippled man looked at Peter and John hoping for money. Instead Peter had a deal for him, a deal that man would not find anywhere else. Healing. A miracle took place. Instantly the man was able to walk!

We have heard many offers that sound good and promise much – but we are hesitant to accept them because they might be a scam! But today we hear of an offer that is awesome and we can't find this deal anywhere else. Peter gives an explanation for the healing of the crippled man. In doing so, Peter also pointed out to the religious leaders what they had forgotten --- where

Salvation is Found.

- Not long ago I was entering a Quik Trip. A teenage girl entered before me and held the door open and said, “Good morning, sir!” It was an act of kindness.
- After my hip replacement, I was walking with my cane and my shoelace was untied. Someone offered to tie it. That was an act of kindness.

If you had done those things for someone, how would you feel if charges were brought up against you in a courtroom for your act of kindness? When is it a crime to help someone?

After the healing of the crippled man, the Jewish religious leaders took Peter and John to court and asked, By what power or what name did you do this? They knew what had happened. A lot of people had heard Peter say, In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk. And the man got up! And he walked! This scared the religious leaders. Was Jesus alive?

Peter told the court, It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you – healed. It was a fact, the man was healed. It was a fact, Jesus was alive! Peter and John were happy to confess that their Savior was alive!

Unexplained healings probably happen every day. Doctors and nurses can't figure out why someone walks away from a terrible accident with minor injuries. They can't figure out why a disease simply goes away. Science and medicine search for answers. There are times when God works miracles.

The Jewish religious leaders thought that the problem of Jesus was gone for good after He died on the cross. But God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus died making payment for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead and lives as proof that our sins are forgiven and we will live again even as Jesus lives!

Jesus is different than we are. He is the world's Savior. He saved us from sin's punishment. Through His grace, the One raised to life on Easter made a crippled man walk again. God doesn't promise that suffering Christians will always be healed from their problems. By His grace, Jesus made our

eternal future a happy future. Salvation is found in no one else other than the One who was raised from the dead!

Peter said, By Him (Jesus) this man stands before you healed. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone. The capstone in a building may be the keystone at the top of an arch. If it is not built properly, the building could collapse. It could also be the cornerstone, which determined the lines for the whole building. If the cornerstone was not laid properly, the building would not be constructed properly.

The religious leaders were the spiritual builders of Israel. They were to teach the people the truth of God's Word so the people would grow in true faith. But those religious leaders weren't doing their job! Jesus was the capstone. Without Jesus, Israel's faith was worthless. The religious leaders had rejected Jesus and Jesus was the fulfillment of all of God's promises! They murdered the Messiah. They should have been looking for the Messiah. Instead they rejected the only Messiah that God would ever send!

Jesus is still important! On an Oprah show, Oprah got into an argument with someone from the audience who claimed that Jesus was the only way to God. She was upset that anyone would believe that Jesus was that important for heaven. She said that all people who were sincere in their religion had just as much of a chance in making it to heaven as Christians were! Oprah was wrong!

Peter spoke the truth, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. There is no Savior other than Jesus. God's Word shows us who the Savior is. God's Word shows us that Jesus is the world's only Savior. The One who died to atone for our sin is the Savior. The One who came back to

life to give us eternal life is our only Savior.

Apart from Jesus we have nothing – no purpose, no forgiveness, and no life. Churches would have no purpose to exist without Jesus; people would have no reason to live if Jesus were not our Savior! Without Jesus we are NOTHING! Since Jesus is alive we have purpose in this life – to live for Him! We have forgiveness of sins because of Jesus. We have life now and a great future to look forward to because of Jesus.

The years have passed by since Peter and John stood in that courtroom, but like Peter we still say, “Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus!”

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