

Revival or Riot! (Acts 4:1-37)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The work of the Holy Spirit in lives of believers always brings revival or riot. Many times it is the religious leaders who object to the preaching of the Full Gospel and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

“Now when they spoke to the people, the priest and captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid their hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.” (Acts 4:1-3).

- B. Peter and John were arrested for speaking to the crowd about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead. This was a new teaching that offended the church leaders (Sadducees).

II. ADDRESSING THE SANHEDRIN

- A. The Sanhedrin was the ruling council of the temple, made up of 70 leaders. There were different factions within the Sanhedrin: Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees.

“And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And they set them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what power of what name have you done this?’” (Acts 4:3-7).

- B. They were offended that the lame man has received healing. They had the attitude that nothing happens unless we are the ones who initiate it. But it was more than that. The Sanhedrin wanted to know *“By what power or by what name have you done this?”* (v.7).

III. THE NAME OF JESUS

- A. It is amazing how “offensive” the name of Jesus is to some. Senator Bernie Sanders recently questions Trump nominee Russell Vought, who is a believer in the Bible and follows his Christian faith, and says, “Your beliefs are indefensible!”

“Let it be known to you all, 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 stands before you whole... 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 4:10, 12).

- B. The Bible teaches that God sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins, and that there is no other way to salvation, except through Jesus. He became the sacrifice for our sins. The Word of God says this! Reinhard Bonnke calls this, The ABC’s. He preaches the ABC’s wherever he goes!

- C. For anyone who says they are a Christian, but says all religions lead to heaven, is contrary to the word of God. We don’t have to be unkind to people, but we need to tell them the truth and what the Bible says.

- D. Corey Russell has an interesting testimony. Before he got saved, he was a very lost young man messed up on drugs and alcohol. One day he had an encounter that opened his eyes to the spirit realm (angels and demons). It freaked him out. His friend told him, “Corey, it’s heaven or hell!” You can either accept Jesus as Your Lord and Savior or be lost!

IV. THERE’S POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

- A. The name of Jesus contains power. It’s not just any name! Something supernatural happens when we pray and act in the name of Jesus!
- B. When Peter preached to the leaders he said: *“By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth... this man stands before you whole” (Acts 4:10)*

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son... If you ask anything in My Name, I will do it.” (John 14:13-14).

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.” (Phil. 2:10-11).