



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of December 8, 2024

### **Acts 4:1-12**

**4 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. 5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 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. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 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.”**

1. Why do you think the world persecutes the church of Jesus Christ? What is it about Jesus that makes the world hate Him so much?
2. Why is humanity drawn to power and the powerful? What does mankind tend to do with great power? What happens when that power is threatened? How do you respond when your power and authority is undermined?
3. What power does the Word of God have and how can the church practically use it? If God's Word has so much power, why does the church appear so impotent in our society today?
4. In our passage, when Peter is brought before the powerful religious leaders who had him arrested, he courageously proclaims Christ with great compassion. How do you think you would respond if put into the same situation? How can we, like Peter, be filled with the Holy Spirit to empower us to boldly proclaim the gospel?
5. When Christians claim that Jesus is the only path to salvation, and that no one comes to the Father except through Him, are we being prideful and arrogant? Why is it that only the humble and contrite can enter into the kingdom of God? How should this impact the way you live in the world? How does this impact the way we share the gospel?