

## NO OTHER SAVIOUR

### Acts 4:12

Our text recorded the conclusion of Peter's defence before the Sanhedrin. They were brought to trial after healing a lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple and preaching to a crowd attracted by the commotion that followed the healing. The Jewish leaders during cross examination of Peter and John at the trial specifically ask by what power or by what name they have done all that they did Acts 4:7. By these questions the council members acknowledged ambassadorial authority and attorney influence that come through delegation by a sovereign. Simply put, Sanhedrin wanted to know who sent them or authorized them to preach and heal; whose interest they are promoting or represent.

Peter told them that it is Jesus, the one they crucified, whom God raised from the dead. The power released through the mention of His name made the lame man whole. Peter declared that this Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Saviour appointed by God for the salvation of mankind; there is no other.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Man's need of salvation
2. The concept of salvation and its origin
3. Man's only Savior and spiritual foundation

#### **1. Man's need of salvation**

Genesis 6:5, 6, Jeremiah 17:9, Isaiah 24:4-5, Romans 3:23, Mark 7:21-23, Revelation 21:27, Psalm 7:11, 9:17

The idea that human being are sinful and in need of salvation was unpopular among Jewish rulers and leaders. It was unpopular even among the Romans. Jewish leaders in Christ's days do not believe that they needed saving from sin. Actually, they always act and speak as though they were the only one in Israel following God and walking in His will. Their self-righteousness prevented them from believing in a Savior who brought salvation. They did not believe they needed saving from anything. Hence, they rejected Jesus and crucified Him.

Romans on their part worshipped many and different gods. Their understanding about God is of one that could be manipulated for gains not one that has control over their lives whose laws and commandments should guide their daily lives and actions. Besides, they also believed that the influence of a god is territorial; Egyptian gods are powerful in Egypt, Jews' God is powerful in Israel, Roman gods are powerful in Rome. They deliberately ignored the idea of one God over the whole earth who is the creator and sustainer of all things as claimed by Jesus and that right standing with Him is only possible through Jesus Christ His Son. Interestingly, this is the position of the Gospel. The Bible and the Gospel revealed that men in their natural state since the fall of Adam

are sinful and estranged from God. The context of our Bible reference and text confirmed it.

Twice in chapter 4 it was stated that the lame man was "*made whole*". Wholeness is much more than physical healing or enjoying physical health. It is a state of being perfectly well in body, soul (mind, will and emotions) and spirit. The opposite of this is the state of all natural men without Christ. The ruin of it is what sin and Satan brought beginning from Adam's fall and restoration of it is why Jesus sacrificed Himself. It is the ultimate goal of salvation in Christ. Man in his natural state is corrupt, totally depraved sinful, wicked and spiritually dead. Without salvation, he will be lost forever.

## **2. The concept and origin of salvation**

Acts 4:12, Mathew 1:21, Acts 5:31, Luke 4:18, Romans 8:21, Galatians 5:1, John 3:16, Galatians 1:4

The concept of salvation must be well understood by all believers so we can by our understanding appraise the genuineness of our experiences and the nature of our mission to the lost in the world. Salvation refers to preservation, keeping a person or thing in a safe state, preserving it from harm. It refers to deliverance from evil that could afflict the body or mind, deliverance from pains, sickness, danger etc Acts 7:25. In the New Testament, it is applied to the work of Christ Jesus Luke 19:10 and primarily refers to deliverance from the effects and consequence of sin Mathew 1:21, Acts 5:31, Luke 4:18, Romans 8:21, Galatians 5:1. It denotes freedom from sin, its effects and consequences, the attainment of perfect joy and peace that shall be bestowed on children of God in heaven. The sacrifice and power of Jesus that saves is the same that guarantees healing for our sick bodies and solution to all our problems in time and in eternity.

Physical healing that we receive in the name of Jesus is a foretaste of greater blessing to come on earth and in eternity to those who are saved and redeemed by Christ. In that case, every act of divine healing and intervention in our lives that we presently enjoy is an invitation to partake in something greater and more glorious. Jesus is the Savior of the world, the author and finisher of believer's faith. Peter testimony and conclusion here is that there is no other; history has consistently proved that he is right. Salvation originated from God, God in Christ Jesus gave a savior to the world John 3:16, Galatians 1:4, 2:20, Ephesians 9:22, 5:25, 1Timothy 2:6, 2Corinthians 9:15.

## **3. Man's only Savior and spiritual foundation**

Acts 4:12, John 3:35, 17:2, 1Timothy 2:3-6, Hebrews 2:9-10, Titus 2:11-14, John 3:17-18, 14:6

Jesus is the true foundation of ideal and genuine spirituality. He is the only one validated by God the creator of heaven and earth. The validation of Jesus is reflected in His investment with all power by God and in His ability to do all that God can do. Unprecedented power is associated with all that Jesus is and represents. God gave Jesus

power that makes all life's forces hold together. God committed all things into His hand and gave Him power over all things John 3:35, 17:2. Without Jesus, there is no "*being*" or "*doing*" that will last or stand the test of time. Those who reject Jesus like the Jews and their rulers will one day discover that they were wrong.

History and experiences unite in their testimony that humanity has only one Savior notwithstanding whether they are Jews or Gentiles; that Savior is Jesus Christ. He is the one appointed and ordained by God to be the author of redemption and procurer of salvation. Those who reject Jesus reject the wisdom, authority, love and salvation of God. They will sink in life's ocean with nothing to hold on to; they will be damned forever in the end. Any human being that will be saved ultimately would be saved by communication, connection, interaction and relationship with Jesus. Salvation of human family is in His hands 1Timothy 2:5, 6, Acts 10:43. There is no rejecting or neglecting Jesus and getting it right in life. He is the foundation of fruitful, productive life here on earth and glorious life in the world beyond. According to Peter, uniqueness, distinction, peculiarity and power is associated with the name of our Lord Jesus; it still remains so till date. It remains an eternal fact and truth that calling upon Jesus saves. Try it today, you will never be disappointed!

## PRAYER POINTS

1. Thank God for giving the world a Saviour and for making us to benefit from this gift
2. Thank God for the salvation of our souls and the hope of everlasting life that we have through Christ
3. Pray for a great outpouring of the Spirit upon all believers in our fellowships; pray for the Spirit's power and energizing influence to continue to preach the Gospel
4. Pray that God will make the power invested in the name of Jesus to effectively work in our lives and ministry as we preach His word
5. Pray against every expression of self-righteousness hindering men from coming to Christ in our families and communities
6. Pray for full benefit of salvation experience; pray for perfect soundness in your spirit, soul and body
7. Pray for the restoration of all that the devil has stolen or destroyed in your life when you did not know the Lord
8. Pray for total freedom from ancestral sins and wickedness; pray for total freedom from ancestral problems, afflictions, yokes, bondage and curses; claim exception!
9. Pray for total deliverance from all afflictions, pains and sicknesses, pray for healing in every area of your life
10. Pray for grace to live a life of victory over sin and whole-hearted devotion to God
11. Pray that God will bring to an end the reign of wickedness, corruption and evil in our land
12. Pray that multitude in our nation will desire salvation, turn to the Lord and be saved
13. Pray that God will save all members of our families who are not yet saved
14. Pray for perfect joy and peace that Jesus brings in our families, communities and nation
15. Pray that our spiritual life will stand upon a foundation of genuine relationship and intimacy with Christ
16. Pray that God will meet all our needs and solve our problems including the problems in our ministry; pray that God will be our sufficiency
17. Pray for a useful, fruitful and productive life as we continue to follow Christ
18. Pray for all who are saved in our churches and fellowships that God will uphold them to the end
19. Pray for grace to continuously abide in the Lord and remain faithful in your service and commitment to God till the end

May God hear and answer our prayers!