

There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

Scripture Context

After healing the crippled man at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3), Peter and John are arrested by the religious authorities—the very Sanhedrin that condemned Jesus. The apostles are questioned about their authority, to which Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly declares that **Jesus of Nazareth** is the source of healing and salvation. He concludes with the profound and exclusive claim:

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

Courage in Witnessing to Christ

In a time when religious syncretism and moral relativism flourish, this passage affirms a countercultural truth: **salvation is only through Jesus Christ**. And declaring this boldly—like Peter—requires **moral courage**.

Peter could have been silent. He could have negotiated. But instead, he proclaimed the Gospel without compromise. This courage flows not from pride, but from **conviction and love**—knowing that eternal salvation is at stake.

◆ *St. John Chrysostom (Homily on Acts):*

“Observe the boldness of Peter. The unlearned man, the fisherman, stands in the midst of priests, rulers, and scribes, and speaks more boldly than the prophets!”

Chrysostom emphasizes the miraculous **transformation of the apostles** through the Holy Spirit—showing us that boldness is a gift of divine grace.

◆ *St. Cyprian of Carthage:*

“To confess Christ in word but deny Him in deed is to be a traitor to the truth.”

This links courage to **consistency**—our life must reflect our profession of faith.

◆ *St. Catherine of Siena:*

“Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear.”

Even in the face of opposition, the saints urge us to **speak the truth with love**, trusting that the Spirit will provide the words and strength.

The Exclusivity of Christ

Some challenge the claim in Acts 4:12, saying it is intolerant or outdated. But Catholic teaching is clear:

✓ CCC 846:

“Outside the Church there is no salvation” means that all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is His Body.

If a doctor had the **only cure** for a terminal disease, would it be arrogant for him to say so? No. It would be **loving** and **just**. Christ is that divine physician—and to withhold this truth is not mercy, but neglect.

In an age that pressures believers to be “spiritually polite,” Acts 4 reminds us that **truth and love are not opposites**. Peter’s boldness is not an act of rebellion but a cry of charity: *“There is no other name...”*

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to inflame in us that same apostolic courage—bold, humble, and burning with love.