

# One Path

## Acts 4:8 – 12

### I. Intro

- A. **IMPORTANT:** In a culture that is increasingly promoting a postmodern mindset (view that every religion, or opinions of spirituality are considered valid), it is absolutely vital that as believers/followers/disciples of Jesus Christ have rock-solid and complete confidence in answers to His exclusive claims and be able to hold an intelligent conversation about our faith (main excuse given why people don't witness)
- B. **Example claim: John 14:6 (ESV)**
  - 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- C. **So many professing Christians have become a big disappointment when it comes to their ability to have any kind of conversation about their faith/beliefs**
- D. **Question:** Can you, a disciple of Christ, give a strong argument as to why Jesus is the only path (one path) to God?
- E. Last week – going back again to basic Christian doctrine, focus on number One; last week – the One True Word, Bible; one true holy, cohesive, scientific, prophetic, life-changing Word
- F. Today – One Path
- G. **READ Acts 4:8 – 12** (reminded about not reading scripture last week)
- H. Jesus, being the only one path to God is based on four key areas of life – Origin (where did it all start), Meaning (life's purpose), Morality (knowing right from wrong), Destiny (what happens at the end of life)
  - i. Questions answered by One True Word of God
- I. **Fact:** Every religion makes exclusive claims; Christians believe Jesus is the only Son of God; Muslims believe Jesus was merely a prophet of God; Buddhist don't even include God in their beliefs; but, they can't all be right
- J. We don't have to be experts to have conversations about our faith, but we are told in God's Word that we need to be ready and prepared
  - i. 2 Timothy 2:15-16 (ESV)
    - 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (Then ...)
    - 16 But **avoid irreverent babble**, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,
  - ii. It's ok to have discussions, not debates

### II. Religion of Inclusiveness

- A. Today's culture often described as postmodern; assertion that nothing is absolute, everything is relative
- B. With this viewpoint, each person can define their own standard for what's right and what's wrong for themselves, but no one can define what's right and wrong for another person
- C. **Illustration:** Even in architecture, some buildings are referred to postmodern, meaning what's considered normal in construction design is "thrown out the window" – buildings/rooms in buildings with odd shapes, staircases that lead nowhere, waterfalls/lakes/trees incorporated into the building; one thing that always is consistent is the foundation the building sits on – even the craziest postmodern building has to have a solid/stable foundation
- D. Newsweek poll: 8 out of 10 Americans do not believe that any one faith is the exclusive path to God (even includes some who profess to be Christian); over a third of Americans have a "piecemeal" faith – taking bits and pieces of other religions to form their own unique belief
- E. Words still very true today – (v. 11) Jesus still the stone that is rejected
- F. Without a solid foundation based on absolute truth all those postmodern spiritual opinions collapse – these are man-made religions
- G. Moses on Mt. Sinai receiving the Law from God, what happened among the Israelites while he was away
  - i. **Exodus 32:7-9 (ESV)**
    - 7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.
    - 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"
    - 9 And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people.
  - ii. **Moses took the golden calf, burned it in fire, ground it up into powder, mixed with water and made people drink it**
  - iii. **Exodus 32:30 (ESV)**
    - 30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." (People doing this very same thing today, creating their own gods/belief systems, are committing a great sin)
- H. Why it's important for disciples of Christ to be able to address questions about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ – the One Path to God

### III. The Great Religion Search

- A. All humans, being created by God, have been wired to highly value someone or something – we are wired to worship
- B. A person’s faith choice is the most important decision they’ll ever make in life
- C. Amazing what people will look to in order to make that choice – internet, talk-show hosts, follow after a well-known person’s belief or what the most popular at any given time; most people instinctively have a desperate need to find solid answers to spiritual questions
- D. Goes back to 4 questions mentioned earlier of origin, meaning, morality, and destiny which require answers that are logical, consistent, and relevant to the real world
- E. People more open to hearing solid answer than we may think
  - i. Jesus encounter with man whose son possessed by evil spirit who says, *I believe. Lord help my unbelief*
  - ii. His own disciple Thomas who wouldn’t believe Jesus had risen from the dead until he had physical evidence and Jesus gave it to him
- F. Many people are open to dialogue about faith, but not a debate (mentioned earlier); in these conversations we must listen, ask questions, lead the person to dig deeper into, and closely examine, their own pre-determined conclusions
- G. There are eternal consequences to the belief choices people make; understanding the truth behind the reason for our existence, our purpose in this life, what our ultimate destiny is
- H. **2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)**  
 9 [The Lord is] patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- I. **1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)**  
 15 ... in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **(Hope – Christ, the One Path to God the Father, exclusively)**

#### IV. **The Great Relationship Solution**

- A. Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of God, came to earth to live and dwell among us, gave His life to pay the penalty for our sin – because we all are sinners – not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we’re sinners
  - i. **Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)**  
 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- B. Jesus Christ, rose from the dead, so that we have the confident hope of life after death
  - i. **John 11:25-26 (ESV)**

25 **[He said]** ... “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,  
26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

**C. No amount of our own attempts at goodness will ever be enough to earn our way to God; the sacrifice of His Son on the cross and His forgiveness is an act of grace**

i. **Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is **the** gift of God,

**D. We must recognize/admit our need for Christ to save us from our sin**

i. **1 John 1:9 (ESV)**

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**E. We must trust completely and believe in Christ’s death and resurrection for us**

i. **Romans 10:9 (ESV)**

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**F. We must be willing to repent (turn away from sin) and surrender our hearts and lives completely to Christ and follow Him as Lord**

i. **Matthew 16:24 (ESV)**

24 **[Jesus said]**, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

**G. Acts 4:12 (ESV)**

12 ... there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”