

Acts
The Name of Jesus
Acts 3:1-4:4

I. Miracle (3:1-10)

II. Message (3:11-26)

III. Manifestation (4:1-4)

IV. My Life

Go Forward

1. "...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Take a bit of time to scan through Acts 10-14 through the lens of what it meant to be a Christian in the first century...to bear the name of Jesus. Here in the United States we have not been persecuted for following Jesus for generations, so the experience of these early Christians is foreign to us. But in those days, the message of hope given to the early churches included these themes: "...strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God'" (Acts 14:22). So, even though we're a couple thousand years removed from those times, what should we make of the following verses:

- And [Jesus] was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. (Luke 9:23-24)
- But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come....Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (2 Timothy 3:1,12)

Could it be that our "brand" of Christianity today could be missing something? Just think about it...pray about it.

2. Lord willing, next Sunday's sermon will be covering Acts 4:5-31. It connects well to some of the themes presented in today's sermon passage. Take some time this week to read this upcoming passage a few times. Invest some time to meditate on its truths and to begin to seek the Lord's direction regarding how it applies to your life.