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W H O I S T H E O N E R U L I N G  
A N D R E I G N I N G W I T H I N  
Y O U ?  
~ R K

# THE STONE-SAVIOR

**Acts 4:10-12 Let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified and whom God has raised from the dead, in this name this man stands before you in good health. (11) This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner. (12) And there is salvation in no other, for neither is there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved.**

When Peter and John were asked by what power or in what name they healed the lame man, Peter took the opportunity to say more concerning Christ as the Healer. In chapter three he presented this Healer in six aspects: God's Servant, the Holy One, the Righteous One, the Author of life, the Prophet, and the seed in whom all the families of the earth will be blessed. All these aspects of the Healer are for our benefit. But

in chapter four Peter presents an aspect of the Healer that is especially for God; he presents Christ as the stone for God's building. Acts 4:12 is often used in the preaching of the gospel. But have you ever heard it used in relation to verse 11? These verses indicate that the stone in verse 11 is the Savior. The stone despised by the builders has become the cornerstone, and there is no salvation in any other name. We can be saved only in the name of Jesus, and Jesus is the stone. This means that we have a Stone-Savior. In the four gospels we have the King-Savior in Matthew, the Slave-Savior in Mark, the Man-Savior in Luke, and the God-Savior in John. Now in the book of Acts we have the Stone-Savior. Our Savior is not only the King, a Slave, a Man, and God-He is also a stone for God's building.





## THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE

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**Acts 5:19-20 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, and leading them out, said, (20) Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.**

When the angel of the Lord rescued the apostles from prison, he said to them, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." We need to pay attention to the word "this," for it indicates a particular life. The Greek word rendered "words" here is *rhema*, denoting the present spoken word, not the constant written word.

Therefore, the angel was saying to the apostles, "Go and speak the present words of this life." What life is indicated by "this life"? It is the divine life preached, ministered, and lived by Peter that overcame the Jewish leaders' persecution, threatening, and imprisonment. This word indicates that Peter's life and work made the divine life so real and present in his

situation that even the angel saw it and pointed it out. The apostles were not told to speak of the divine life in a doctrinal way. Today certain Christians may talk about life, but their talk is altogether doctrinal. We need to seek mercy and grace from the Lord so that whenever we speak concerning the divine life, we speak the words of the very life we live. This means that the divine life becomes our daily life. It is this life that we should minister to others.

# BIBLICAL WORDSEARCH

## THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

AFTER YOU HAVE FOUND ALL THE WORDS, WRITE THE LEFTOVER LETTERS IN THE CORRECT ORDER TO FORM THE **MYSTERY ANSWER**.



ADORATION, CATTLE, CONFESS, DESIRES, DISCIPLES, DWELLING,  
ETERNAL LIFE, EVERLASTING, FORGIVENESS, GIFT, GRACE,  
JACOBS WELL, JERUSALEM, JESUS, JEWS, NEEDS, NEVER THIRST,  
PHARISEES, PITCHER, QUENCH, REST, SALVATION, SAMARITAN,  
SATISFY, SIXTH, SPIRIT OF GOD, SPIRITUAL, SPRING, SYCHAR,  
TESTIMONY, TRUTH, WEARIED, WOMAN, WORSHIPPED

# HOSSMEIN SOODMAND PAID THE PRICE FOR FAITH

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ON THIS DAY, 3 December 1990, Iran hanged Hossmein Soodmand, an Assemblies of God pastor. His “crime” had been committed thirty years before and broken no law on the books—he had converted as a young man from Islam to Christianity. Soodmand could have escaped the death penalty by recanting his faith but refused.

The martyred pastor left behind him an almost-blind wife and four children. A son, Ramtin, also became a Christian worker and would be imprisoned eighteen years later in 2008. Soodmand's daughter, Rashin, obtained asylum in the West where she engaged in Christian ministry and spoke out against Iran's persecution of Christians.

In an interview, Rashin described two events that had brought her father to Christ. The first occurred when he was seven. As a

good Muslim, he hated Christians. One day he threw a stone to break a Christian woman's water pot. Successful, he turned to run but stumbled and cut his knee. The woman moved toward him and he expected her to hit him. Instead she helped him up, cleaned his wound, and gave him a sweet treat. The second incident occurred while he was in the army. He became so ill he had to be hospitalized. An Armenian Christian prayed over him and he awoke healed, having dreamed of Jesus in the night.

After his recovery, he located a Christian house of worship where he was mentored in his newfound faith and became a mouthpiece for Christ. While assisting at a Christian Institute for the Blind in Isfahan, he met Mahtab Noorvash, whom he married. (The pastor who performed the ceremony would die as a martyr, too.)

Under the Shah of Iran, conversion to Christianity was not treated as a crime. However, when the Islamic Revolution seized Iran and Ayatollah Khomeini rose to power, repression of Christians intensified. Had Soodmand merely been a participating layman in a church, he would probably

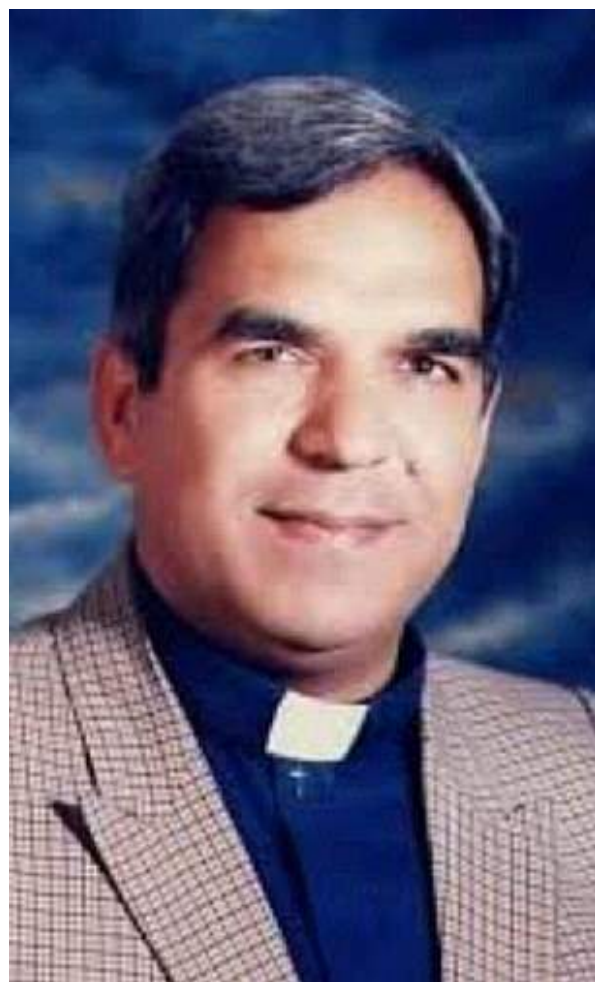


not have suffered severe persecution. But he had moved back to his hometown of Mashhad and established a growing church in his basement. Authorities often warned Soodmand and gave him chances to renounce his faith. Christians offered to help him escape from Iran but he refused to abandon his pastoral work. Finally, he was arrested. Two weeks later, his family learned he had been executed.

Although no secular law said Soodmand's conversion was illegal, Iran's clerical rulers had instructed judges to apply Sharia law wherever the official code did not explicitly spell out a crime. Sharia consists mostly of previous rulings and precedents. Under all versions of Sharia, the death penalty is applicable for one who converts away from Islam. The bottom line was that Iran's Muslim leaders wanted witnesses like Soodmand silenced so that they could not convert more people to Christianity.

Rashin was thirteen when her father was arrested and executed. "Of course, my father refused to give up his faith. . . . He could not renounce his God. His belief in Christ was his life—it was his deepest conviction." She said her family was not

permitted to bury his body, nor to mark his grave after workers interred him in a cemetery reserved for the accursed.





# A HYMN A DAY KEEPS YOU HUMMING ALL THE WAY



## A LIFE OF NO REGRETS

1

What caused Mary to give her all?  
What moved Peter to answer Your call?  
Many lives were wasted for Your testimony;  
Oh Lord, why do these people care so much for  
Thee?

See the vision of Christ and the church;  
Count the cost; reckon all things as loss;  
Pay the price. The prize to gain Christ,  
Burn the bridges; leave the world behind;  
On God's economy your heart be set  
To live a life of no regrets.

2

Others have considerations,  
When serving You, Lord, is the highest  
profession.  
No longer good for the world with all its glory,  
We're for Christ and the church, 'tis now our  
testimony.

See the vision of Christ and the church;  
Count the cost; reckon all things as loss;  
Pay the price. The prize to gain Christ,  
Burn the bridges; leave the world behind;  
On God's economy your heart be set  
To live a life...

We've seen the vision of Christ and the church.  
Reckoned the cost; all things are but loss.  
Will pay the price — give all of our lives;  
We're burning bridges, left the world behind.  
On God's economy our hearts are set  
We're living a life...  
On God's economy our hearts are set,  
We'll live a life of no regrets.



# LUKE 5

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## WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

**Lk 5:1** And as the crowd pressed upon Him to hear the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret.

**Lk 5:2** And He saw two boats lying by the lake, and the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing the nets.

**Lk 5:3** And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and from the boat taught the crowds.

**Lk 5:4** And when He ceased speaking, He said to Simon, Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.

**Lk 5:5** And Simon answered and said, Master, through the whole night we toiled and caught nothing; but based on Your word I will let down the nets.

**Lk 5:6** And when they did this, they enclosed a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear apart.

**Lk 5:7** And they signaled to their companions in the other boat to come and assist them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

**Lk 5:8** And when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord.

**Lk 5:9** For amazement had taken possession of him and all who were with him, because of the catch of the fish which they took;

**Lk 5:10** And likewise also James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive.



**Lk 5:11** And when they had brought the boats to the land, they left all and followed Him.

**Lk 5:12** And while He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged Him, saying, Lord, if You are willing, You can cleanse me.

**Lk 5:13** And stretching out His hand, He touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed! And immediately the leprosy left him.

**Lk 5:14** And He charged him to tell no one: But go away, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift for your cleansing, even as Moses directed, for a testimony to them.

**Lk 5:15** But the word concerning Him spread abroad all the more, and great crowds came together to hear Him and to be healed from their infirmities.

**Lk 5:16** But He Himself often withdrew in the wilderness and prayed.

**Lk 5:17** And on one of the days He was teaching, and there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come out of every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Him to heal.

**Lk 5:18** And behold, some men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they sought a way to carry him in and lay him before Him.

**Lk 5:19** And since they could not find by what way they might carry him in because of the crowd, they went up onto the housetop and let him down with the cot through the tiles into the midst, in front of Jesus.

**Lk 5:20** And seeing their faith, He said, Man, your sins are forgiven you.

**Lk 5:21** And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins except God alone?

**Lk 5:22** But Jesus, knowing fully their reasonings, answered and said to them, Why are you reasoning in your hearts?



**Lk 5:23 Which is easier: to say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Rise and walk?**

**Lk 5:24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on the earth to forgive sins — He said to the one paralyzed, To you I say, Rise and take up your cot and go to your house.**

**Lk 5:25 And he rose up at once before them and took up that upon which he was lying and went away to his house, glorifying God.**

**Lk 5:26 And astonishment took hold of all, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen extraordinary things today.**

**Lk 5:27 And after these things He went out and beheld a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, Follow Me.**

**Lk 5:28 And leaving all, he rose up and followed Him.**

**Lk 5:29 And Levi gave a great reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining at table with them.**

**Lk 5:30 And the Pharisees and their scribes murmured at His disciples, saying, Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?**

**Lk 5:31 And Jesus answered and said to them, Those who are healthy have no need of a physician, but those who are ill;**

**Lk 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

**Lk 5:33 And they said to Him, The disciples of John fast often and make petitions, likewise also those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink.**

**Lk 5:34 And Jesus said to them, You cannot make the sons of the bridechamber fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you?**

**Lk 5:35 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days.**



**Lk 5:36 And He also spoke a parable to them: No one tears a patch from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise, he will tear the new garment, and also the patch from the new will not match the old.**

**Lk 5:37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the new wine will burst the wineskins, and it will be poured out and the wineskins will be ruined;**

**Lk 5:38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.**

**Lk 5:39 And no one who has drunk the old desires the new, for he says, The old is better.**



*Answers..*

WORDSEARCH: THE SAMARITAN  
WOMAN

Mystery Answer: FIVE HUSBANDS