

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Civil Disobedience"
Acts 4:13-31
Study-9

We come to the "line drawn in the sand" in our study of the book of Acts:

Jesus foretold that his followers would be persecuted: Matthew 5:10-12

1 Peter 4:14-16

Persecution was a blessing of the NT Church. Five times in 11 years, hands were laid on the disciples in an attempt to destroy the Church in Jerusalem.

Thought Of The Passage: "The Church's Mandate Is To Preach The Gospel And No Human Authority Can Stop The Gospel From Being Proclaimed."

1. Verses 13-22 Apostles' Courage

2. Verses 23-31 Church's Unity

1. Verses 13-22 Apostles' Courage:

Acts 4:13 Now – Context - goes back to **Acts 3**. Peter and John are used by the Lord to heal a lame man at the temple gate. The result is that people believe in Jesus, and Peter and John are both arrested **Acts 4**. Peter and John are now standing before the Sanhedrin and the Priestly Jewish authorities.

as they observed - this describes "*a deliberate contemplation.*"

the confidence - "*Boldness of speech*" of Peter and John,

and understood that they were uneducated - "*illiterate, unlearned in the Law and the sacred writings, not versed in Jewish theology, ignorant in Jewish lore, lacking a scribe's education.*"

and untrained men, - "*an ignoramus ("idiot") - ignorant, rude.*" Not in the sense that we would use it today. A commoner, layman, unskilled, or unclassified person.

they were amazed, - Literally "*kept on marveling.*" It caused them to be stunned.

and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

John 7:15-16

Peter's Sermon was based on Scripture and rightly interpreted.

Acts 4:14 the man who had been healed standing with them - **The greatest argument for the Christian Faith is a Transformed Life!**

they had nothing to say in reply. Luke 21:15

Acts 4:15 confer with one another, Literally "*kept on conferring,*"
Acts 4:16

The Answer to Their Question: "What shall we do with these men?"
How about *Learn from them?* You just heard Peter's defense **Acts 4:8-12**

Matthew 27:22-23

"There Are None So Blind As Those Who Refuse to See!"

Acts 4:17 let us warn them to speak no more to any man in this name." "*Suppress the name of Jesus.*" Sadducees believed they had the monopoly on the Scriptures.

Acts 4:2

Today, the opponents of Christianity are alive and well:

Atheism – *Deny the existence of God,* or today, more "**Agnosticism.**"

Islam or Muslims –

Secularism - Humanism –

Hedonism –

Marxism, Karl Marx called **Religion** "*The Opium of the people.*"

Ecumenical Movement – **(Can't beat 'em, join them)**

1 Timothy 3:15-16

Acts 4:18 No more preaching in Jesus' name. We have been given the "Great Commission." **Matthew 28:19-20**

What Should We Do? Jesus commanded us to go into all the world and preach and teach, but the authorities are commanding us to stop!
(Contempt of Court)

Acts 4:19 you be the judge; - said to the religious leaders, "*You are going to have to figure out yourselves if we should obey you or God!*"

Acts 4:20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." **1 Corinthians 9:16**

Peter had Buckled Under the Pressure of a Servant Girl

Matthew 26:69-70

Acts 1:8 you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, Acts 10:42

We Individuals Must Stand: for we 2 Timothy 1:12

Romans 13:1-2

“There is a higher authority than that which man can legislate or command. It is that of God. When man forbids what God commands, or God forbids what man commands, then we must obey God rather than man.”

Acts 4:21 We would say, *“They gave them the riot act!”*

on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened; Note that the people, not the religious leaders, got the miracle.

Acts 4:22 for the man was more than forty years old Acts 3:2

2. Verses 23-31 Church’s Unity:

Acts 4:23 they went to their own companions,
Where would the apostles go after such an encounter?

How Long Would Peter and John Last Without Others?

and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. Note they reported, (They Were Accountable)

Verses 24-28 Church Honored God’s Name: (Hallowed Be Your Name) Adoration

Acts 4:24 Our God Is Lord - And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord - They first cried out to the Lord.

and said, “O Lord, “Sovereign Master.” It is the title for God that speaks of the relationship between a master and his slaves.

God Is The God of Creation - MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH

Prayer was Saturated with Scripture: This is **Psalm 2:1-3** David is speaking of the opposition to God. Jesus’ prediction had to come to pass **John 15:18-16:4**

God Is The God of Revelation - Acts 4:25
Scripture Foretells Jesus’ Rejection - Acts 4:25-26

Scripture Is Presently Being Fulfilled, God Is In Control – Acts 4:27

Acts 4:28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Acts 4:29 (Church's Three Petitions)

Petition #1 God Take Note of Their Threats: "And now, Lord, take note of their threats,

Petition #2 God Would Grant Boldness To Witness: and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

Petition #3 God Would Grant Miracles of Mercy: Acts 4:30

while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place

Acts 5:12-16 These miracles were to validate the message:

through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." Note that to God be the glory.

Acts 4:31 place where they had gathered together was shaken, God did an earthquake shake. Acts 16:26 Prison

and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, Acts 4:8; Acts 2:4
We need to be filled again and again. **Ephesians 5:18**

and began to speak the word of God with boldness. Fulfilled prayer
Acts 4:29

Application:

1. There Is A Higher Authority Than That Which Man Can Legislate Or Command. It Is That Of God. When Man Forbids What God Commands, Or God Forbids What Man Commands, Then We Must Obey God Rather Than Man.
2. Effective Prayer Is In One Accord.
3. We Must Honor God As The Lord And Rely On The Truth Of Scripture.
4. We Must Seek The Glory Of God, And We Can Then Depend Upon The Holy Spirit's Power.