

**When it Comes to
Listening to
Authority, God's
is Above All**

Leading up to Acts Chapter 4:13

- Jesus' ministry, sacrificial death, and resurrection – and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
- Peter and John heal the crippled man at the Beautiful Gate and are interrogated by the priests.
- Peter preaches that it's by the power of the Man they crucified that this cripple has been healed.

Acts 4:13-15 (HCSB) ¹³ When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus.

¹⁴ And since they saw the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in response. ¹⁵ After they had ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves,

*They knew of Jesus and His disciples. **Mark 13:11 (NASB₁₉₉₅)** "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit."*

The evidence of personal experience and transformation continues to be one of the best ways to share the love of Jesus with a world that so desperately needs Him.

What can you share about God's work in your life to impact those whom God has placed in your path?

Acts 4:16-18 (NASB₁₉₉₅) ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.
¹⁷ "But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name."

¹⁸ And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

The power of the Holy Spirit could not and still cannot be denied. Yet a world in darkness does not welcome the light that exposes their sin.

The name of Jesus, which was synonymous with the resurrection, could not be tolerated then and it is still not tolerated now. The truth will bring freedom and condemnation.

Outside of church walls, do you hold Jesus' name in honor or try to avoid mentioning Him?

Acts 4:19-22 (NIV₂₀₁₁)¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

*Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2 call us to obey authority, but **NOT** when they call us to go against God. We must be faithful witnesses.*

Our culture already threatens with the loss of jobs, destruction of reputation, etc. when we speak out for Christ. Will you stand firm with God’s armor?

Or will you be pulled away by the sway of our culture?

Are religious, government & cultural authorities calling us to disobey God?

- We are to love everyone (regardless of their actions and ideology) yet we are to recognize that what God calls sin is sin:
 - Euthanasia is legal in 8 states in the U.S.
 - Abortion is still legal in many states
 - Sexual Immorality is legal is legal in all states
 - Both our genetic makeup and the environment we grew up in shaped our desires (good **and bad**)
 - ✓ *Yet... your desires don't have to define you*