

# Acts 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

## Analysis

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The council's strategy - 'that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name' - reveals their true concern: not truth but control. The Greek 'apeilē apeilēsōmetha' (straitly threaten, intensive Hebrew idiom) indicates severe warning. Their phrase 'this name' avoids saying 'Jesus,' showing superstitious fear or contemptuous dismissal. Attempting to suppress truth by threat exposes spiritual bankruptcy.

## Historical Context

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The Sanhedrin possessed limited authority under Roman occupation - they could threaten but not execute without Roman approval (John 18:31). Their strategy of intimidation rather than refutation demonstrated weakness. Early church growth despite persecution validated Christ's promise that gates of hell wouldn't prevail (Matthew 16:18).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does attempting to silence truth by threat rather than argument expose the threatener's weakness?
2. What does avoiding Jesus' name while acknowledging His power reveal about suppressed conviction?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀλλ'	ἵνα	μὴ	ἐπὶ	πλεῖον	διανεμηθῇ	εἰς	τὸν	λαόν
<b>But</b>	G2443	G3361	<b>further</b>	G4119	<b>it spread</b>	<b>among</b>	G3588	<b>the people</b>
G235			G1909		G1268	G1519		G2992
ἀπειλῇ	ἀπειλησώμεθα	αὐτοῖς	μηκέτι	λαλεῖν	ἐπὶ			
<b>let us straitly</b>	<b>threaten</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>henceforth</b>	<b>that they speak</b>	<b>further</b>			
G547	G546	G846	G3371	G2980	G1909			
τῷ	ὀνόματι	τούτῳ	μηδενὶ	ἀνθρώπων				
G3588	<b>name</b>	<b>this</b>	<b>to no</b>	<b>man</b>				
	G3686	G5129	G3367	G444				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 5:28** (Parallel theme): Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

**Acts 5:24** (Parallel theme): Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

**1 Thessalonians 1:8** (Parallel theme): For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

