

# 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

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

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

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

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

---

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

---

ἀλλ' ἵνα μὴ ἐπὶ πλεῖον διανεμηθῇ εἰς τὸν λαόν  
But G2443 G3361 further G4119 it spread among G3588 the people  
G235 G1909 G1268 G1519 G2992

ἀπειλῇ ἀπειλησώμεθα αὐτοῖς μηκέτι λαλεῖν ἐπὶ<sup>1</sup>  
let us straitly threaten them henceforth that they speak further  
G547 G546 G846 G3371 G2980 G1909

τῷ ὄνόματι τούτῳ μηδενὶ ἀνθρώπων  
name this to no man  
G3686 G5129 G3367 G444

## Additional Cross-References

---

**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 Godward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

