

Acts 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

Analysis

The command 'not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus' attempted to silence gospel proclamation completely. The Greek distinguishes 'phtheggesthai' (speak, general utterance) and 'didaskein' (teach, systematic instruction) - the council banned all forms of Jesus-centered communication. This confrontation forced apostles to choose between human authority and divine commission, establishing the principle of civil disobedience when human law contradicts God's command.

Historical Context

This prohibition directly contradicted Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). The council that lacked authority to execute (requiring Roman approval) now claimed authority to restrict religious speech. Their command established precedent for church-state conflict throughout Christian history.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When does Christian obedience to civil authority end and obligation to God's command begin?
2. How do you prepare to face consequences of obeying God rather than human authorities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ καλέσαντες αὐτοῖς παρήγγειλαν αὐτοῖς τὸ καθόλου
And **they called** **them** **and commanded** **them** ^{G3588} **at all**
G2532 G2564 G846 G3853 G846 G2527

μὴ φθέγγεσθαι μηδὲ διδάσκειν ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ
not **to speak** **nor** **teach** **in** ^{G3588} **the name** ^{G3588}
G3361 G5350 G3366 G1321 G1909 G3686

Ἰησοῦ
of Jesus
G2424

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:40 (References Jesus): And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 5:20 (Parallel theme): Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.