

# Acts 5:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

## Analysis

---

The careful rearrest - 'Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned' - shows forced restraint. The Greek 'ou meta bias' (without violence) indicates gentle approach contrary to their authority and anger. Fear of popular stoning reversed normal power dynamics - religious leaders fearing crowd, not apostles. This demonstrates gospel's power to transform social structures, with common people defending God's messengers against corrupt authorities.

## Historical Context

---

Stoning was Jewish execution method for blasphemy (Leviticus 24:16), but here common people would stone authorities for touching apostles. This popularity inversion parallels Jesus' ministry when leaders 'feared the people' (Matthew 21:46). The gospel's traction among masses threatened elite control.

## Related Passages

---

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

---

1. How does popular support for gospel truth restrain hostile authorities?
2. What does fear of stoning by the people teach about social revolution gospel produces?

## Interlinear Text

---

τότε ἀπελθὼν ὁ στρατηγὸς σὺν τοῖς ὑπηρέταις  
**Then** **went** G3588 **the captain** **with** G3588 **the officers**  
G5119 G565 G4755 G4862 G5257

ἤγαγεν αὐτούς οὐ μετὰ βίας ἐφοβοῦντο γὰρ τὸν  
**and brought** **them** **without** G3326 **violence** **they feared** **for** G3588  
G71 G846 G3756 G970 G5399 G1063

λαόν ἵνα μὴ λιθασθῶσιν  
**the people** G2443 G3361 **they should have been stoned**  
G2992 G3034

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Acts 5:13** (Parallel theme): And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

**Acts 4:21** (Parallel theme): So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.