

# Acts 5:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

The council's agreement with Gamaliel demonstrates God's providential protection of the apostles through human wisdom. Yet their beating the apostles shows partial obedience—they refrained from killing but still punished. This reveals the contradiction of trying to oppose God's work while claiming prudence. The prohibition against speaking in Jesus' name attempts to silence gospel proclamation, showing Satan's consistent strategy: prevent the preaching of Christ's name.

## Historical Context

Beating with rods (flagellation) was standard Jewish punishment for religious offenses, limited to 39 lashes by rabbinic tradition (cf. 2 Cor. 11:24). This was less than the death penalty but still severe, designed to intimidate. The Sanhedrin's compromise shows political reality: they wanted to punish but feared consequences of execution.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the Sanhedrin's compromise show the impossibility of partially obeying God's will?
2. Why is Satan's strategy consistently focused on silencing the proclamation of Jesus' name?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐπείσθησαν δέ αὐτούς καὶ προσκαλεσάμενοι τοὺς  
they agreed And them and when they had called G3588  
G3982 G1161 G846 G2532 G4341

ἀποστόλους δείραντες παρήγγειλαν μὴ λαλεῖν ἐπὶ  
the apostles and beaten them they commanded not speak in  
G652 G1194 G3853 G3361 G2980 G1909

τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἀπέλυσαν αὐτούς  
the name of Jesus and go them  
G3588 G3588 G2424 G2532 G630 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 10:17** (Parallel theme): But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

**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.

**Proverbs 12:10** (Parallel theme): A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

**Mark 13:9** (Parallel theme): But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

**2 Corinthians 11:24** (Parallel theme): Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

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