

# 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

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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

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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

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**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
G3588	the name	G3588 of Jesus	and	go	them
	G3686	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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