

When to Obey God over Government Acts 4:1-31

The right way to be a witness for Christ can lead to an arrest. 1-7

- *Do you recognize these same characters who hauled Jesus into court?
- *Jesus predicted this type of thing for us too, Jn. 15:20, Matt. 10:17-20.
- *The question about authority was also put to Jesus, Lk.19:45ff.

The right choice is always to obey God over government. 8-22

- *Peter is said to be Spirit-filled as he speaks. Some (focusing only on 2:4) regulate being Spirit-filled to 2nd blessing baptism and tongues-speaking; but check out 4:31, 9:17ff., 13:9ff (plus Lk. 1:15,41,67). Spirit-filling is a temporal special filling for a bold, public proclaiming of biblical truth.
- *Peter's answer and quote from Ps.118 *amazes* them; recall Lk. 20:17-20.
- *Typically we are to obey all laws (Rom. 13:1-7, I Pt. 2:13,14, except if it creates conflict with obeying God, Acts 5:28,29, Dan. 3:8-18.

The right response to government persecution is to pray. 23-31

- *Prayer praise: God's sovereign control in spite of futile opposition by governments (quotes Ps. 2). This = 3rd reference to Jesus' fate being planned by God, 2:23, 3:18. Contrast the attitude back in Matt.16:21,22.
- *Prayer request: keep an eye on threats against us and help us stay bold in speaking out as we continue doing signs.
- *Prayer answer: ground shakes and another Spirit-filling to speak boldly.

These believers and many around the world today are boldly speaking out in the face of much government pressure so how bold should we be since we face so little opposition?

Do we perhaps need to pray for some earth-shaking boldness?

