

## **We cannot stay silent.**

(Acts 4:1–22)

### **1. Nothing silences God. (4:1-4)**

- Sometimes doing good things puts us in bad situations.
- Accepting Christ does not solve all of your problems, but it does solve your biggest one.
- Through miracles and bold declaration of the gospel, the Lord added substantially to their numbers (10,000+).

### **2. The Good News of the gospel contains hard truths. (4:5-12)**

- Being “saved” or “made well,” requires accepting that you have a need.
- The exclusivity of the gospel is potentially offensive, but that does not stop it from being good news.

### **3. Silence on our lips implies silence in our hearts. (4:13-22)**

- Calling them uneducated is a bit of a misnomer. They had received the best education possible.

*“They spoke of the men as having been with Jesus, in a past tense. What was the truth? Christ was in the men, and speaking through the men, and the similarity which they detected was not that lingering from contact with a lost teacher, but that created by the presence of the living Christ.” G. Campbell Morgan*

- Trying to stop the growth of the church by attempting to silence its messengers did not work out very well then, and it does not today.
- We must speak of what we have seen and heard.
- Contempt and threats have silenced many witnesses, but these tactics did not stop the apostles.
- Breaking the law is only legitimate (Romans 13:1-7, 1Peter 2:13-17) when it requires (not just permits) us to disobey the Lord (Acts 5:29).

*“...when we read the speech of Peter, we must remember to whom it was spoken, and when we do remember that it becomes one of the world's great demonstrations of courage. It was spoken to an audience of the wealthiest, the most intellectual and the most powerful in the land, and yet Peter, the Galilean fisherman, stands before them rather as their judge than as their victim. But further, this was the very court that had condemned Jesus to death. Peter knew it, and he knew that at this moment he was taking his life in his hands.” William Barclay*

### **Questions for Personal Application:**

1. Why is the gospel called “good news” even though it can be offensive and contains hard truths?
2. Why does attempting to silence the gospel often lead to the advancing of it?
3. What does it look like to be indifferent to the gospel? Could indifference describe you?
4. What are you allowing to silence you from sharing with others “what you have seen and heard?”