

Acts 4:18

¹⁸ And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

The story that precedes this unlawful command, was when Peter and John healed the man who had been paralyzed from birth even in to his forties. They found this paralytic at the “Gate Beautiful” as they were entering the temple. Look with me at their initial meeting in Acts 3:4, **⁴ And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, "Look at us!" ⁵ And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" ⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. ⁸ And with a leap, he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God.** When the priests, temple guard and Sadducees saw the apostles and the man who had been crippled healed, they then commanded them to no longer speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

As crazy as it may seem, today we are told the very same thing! Chaplains in the United States military were commanded not to teach or even pray in the name of Jesus. Why is it that such a thing would ever take place in this day and age? Because the demons of hell recognize the validity of God’s Word in **Philippians 2:9-11**, **⁹ Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** No where do you ever hear not to mention the name of anyone else. You don’t hear Allah’s name placed under such strict measures, or the name Buddha. Yet these names are powerless, and the only time that Jesus’ name is tolerated is when it is blasphemed or cursed. It is up to you and me to never allow any person or entity to prohibit us speaking the name of Jesus. I have even heard ministers praying, “In Your name.” No where in the scripture are we told that all authority and power was given to “Your name.” So why do we pray this way? Because we don’t want to offend the people around us; but has anyone ever given any thought or concern to the very fact that such verbiage could be offensive to our Lord? Church, I have even heard that children have been told to remove or turn inside out T-shirts with the name Jesus printed on them at school; because it could be offensive to someone. Even here in Maine, a teacher told a young student that to many children, that name was a curse word. From every direction, the church is beginning to feel the onslaught of the enemy. The only hope you and I have is Jesus Christ!! No other name has the power to heal, to save, to deliver and set free, except the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!! Take a stand, and don’t give in to the intimidation and threats that are coming against the church. Unless you and I stand up and say “NO”, what kind of world will our children and grandchildren grow up in? I exhort you today in the name of Jesus Christ to be more than a conqueror in His name. Let your life be an example of the love that comes only through Christ our Lord.