

Keep Quiet!

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church
Acts 4:15-18 "But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus."

When Jesus was about to be crucified the Jews said, "His blood be on us, and on our children." **Matthew 27:25**. Later when the apostles started to preach in the name of Jesus they were ordered to stop by the priests. In **Acts 5:28** they said, "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." They had

watched Jesus die on the cross and thought that they were rid of him. Now, they wanted to keep the apostles quiet and to hear no more about him. They were not about to accept the fact that they were guilty of having him crucified. None of them wanted to be reminded of their sin. Most people of today are the same way, they become angry if someone says that something that they want to do is wrong. Whether it is greed, drug use, pride, gossip, the homosexual, or any other sin, they that practice the sin want to feel that it is acceptable, and even normal.

That is why more and more Christians are told to shut up and not to take a stand on issues. For years we have been told not to mention Jesus at many public gatherings. Even when prayer is "allowed" and God is spoken about, many have been told not to mention Jesus. Athletes have been told to not give praise to Jesus when they win an event. Why? Because the unbeliever, the Jew, the Muslim, and many others are offended by him. This is perhaps the one point in which the Muslim and the Jew agree - neither believe in Jesus.

Here in America where we have had freedom of religion for

so long, it is starting to change. It seems that everyone has more rights than the Christian. The ungodly can offend us and they are only exercising their right of free speech, but if a Christian says something that they don't like, we are accused of using hate speech. They're trying to muzzle the Christian, just like the Pharisees and priests tried to stop the apostles long ago.

Persecution is something that we have heard of in other countries and we don't really know what it is like. The worst we have faced is being laughed at, or maybe shunned by some folks, but I think that is changing. In the future, and not too far off, Christians in America are going to learn more about it. You may say that I'm wrong, and I hope that I am, but I doubt it.

The devil hates Jesus and those who follow him. The Lord said that it would be this way and so it is. If we are Christians then we need to be witnesses for Jesus. Being a Christian is more than just going to church on Sunday. If we serve the Lord we are going to make the devil mad, and if we serve the devil we are going to make the Lord angry at us. I know who I'm living for, do you?

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel Intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL
 AS SAMUEL WAITS A SIGN FROM THE LORD TO GUIDE HIM IN CHOOSING A KING FOR ISRAEL, KISH, THE FATHER OF SAUL, APPOINTS HIM TO A TASK

BEHOLD, MY SON, WE HAVE TROUBLE - AND YOU MUST HELP!

WHATEVER THOU SAY, THAT SHALL I DO, MY FATHER!

OUR BEASTS OF BURDEN ARE LOST AND WANDERED OFF! TAKE THOU A SERVANT WITH THEE AND GO FIND THEM!

AND SAUL WITH A SERVANT GOES IN SEARCH OF THE LOST ANIMALS!

THEY SEARCH THE LAND THROUGH MT. EPHRAIM, AND THROUGH THE LAND OF SHALISHA, AND THE LAND OF SHALIM - NO WHERE CAN THEY FIND THE LOST ANIMALS, FINALLY...

WE HAD BETTER CEASE LOOKING AND RETURN HOME OR MY FATHER WILL FEAR THAT WE TOO ARE LOST!

BEHOLD, THERE IS IN THAT CITY A PROPHET OF GOD - SURELY HE CAN TELL US WHERE THE ANIMALS ARE!

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