

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for July 11, 2010**

**“Peter on Trial”**  
**Acts 4:13-22**

**1. The determination of Peter (4:13-14)**

The boldness of Peter did not come from his education.

The boldness of Peter did not come from his training.

The boldness of Peter came from the Holy Spirit.

**2. The deliberation regarding Peter (4:15-17)**

We probably have the account of this meeting from a convert.

The Jewish leaders’ problem was that there was no crime.

The Jewish leaders acknowledged the beggar’s healing.

The Jewish leaders acknowledged the acceptance of the healing.

The Jewish leaders refused to acknowledge the miracle of the resurrection.

The Jewish leaders were unprincipled pragmatists.

**3. The demand of Peter (4:18)**

This prohibition to not speak about Jesus was particularly directed toward their evangelistic efforts.

This prohibition was total.

This command to not speak about Jesus would set up further persecution in Acts 5.

**4. The defiance by Peter (4:19-20)**

1 Peter 2:13-17 and Romans 13:1-7 teach us to obey the governmental authorities, but the limit to this obedience occurs when the government commands us to sin.

It is important to note that the wicked nature of the government during the early church did not negate the responsibility for believers to submit.

We must distinguish between what the government allows and what it demands.

We must also distinguish between when the government limits religious freedom and when it negates religious freedom.

If believers in Christ are ever faced with the requirement to disobey the government, we must do so with passive refusal, not with active revolution, peacefully accepting the consequences.

There was irony in the apostles asking the council to judge its own decision.

No government has ever been able to stop the spread of God's Word.

### **5. The dismissal of Peter (4:21-22)**

This threat was in addition to their previous threat.

While Peter's message was supported by one who was physically healed, this same message is supported today by many who have been spiritually healed.

May God give us the grace to not be ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16) regardless of the intimidation that we may face.