

# Disciple's Quest

*IF YOU CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN YOU ARE  
TRULY DISCIPLES OF MINE.*

JOHN 8:31



September 27, 2020

Acts 4:1-31

Bearing Up Under Persecution

## Main Idea:

Persecution is a certainty for faithful disciples of Jesus. Thankfully, we can bear up under it, and even experience His blessing, by remaining faithful to His Word.

## Outline:

- 1) The Unlawful Arrest (vv. 1 – 3)
- 2) The Unsuccessful Prosecution (vv. 4 – 17)
- 3) The Unsatisfying Acquittal (vv. 18-22)
- 4) The Uplifting Conclusion (vv. 23 – 31)

## Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 Why did Peter often direct his listeners to Old Testament prophecy during his preaching? Consider 2:16 – 21; 2:25 – 32; 3:22 – 26; and 4:25 – 28 in your answer.

#2 What Old Testament prophecies might you refer to when sharing Christ with an unbeliever?

#3 Peter encouraged the believers in His care to be strengthened by the reality that Jesus' death on the cross was the result of God's sovereign plan (4:25-28). Is the contemplation of God's sovereignty strengthening to you?

How?

#4 In what ways did God bless the early church through this episode of persecution?

#5 Why do you think that persecution often fuels the church's growth?