

# The Christian & The Government

(Acts 4:1-31)

- Introduction:
1. We are just two days away from electing a new leader for our nation.
  2. Without question, this has been one of the most controversial elections in the history of our nation.
  3. Never have two candidates been so disliked by both major parties.
  4. The nation is polarized and it's possible that even some brethren may be polarized over politics.
    - a. Division is sinful (1 Corinthians 1:10).
    - b. Matthew the Publican and Simon the Zealot (Acts 1:13).
  5. In this lesson, I want to establish this truth: Christianity will thrive when followers of Christ will refocus their attention away from what happens around us to what happens in us.

## I. The Arrest

- A. (Acts 4:1-20).
- B. It's not always been as easy to be a Christian as it is now.
- C. Notice the boldness of these former "cowards"
  1. (Matthew 26:31).
  2. (Acts 1:9-12, 13, 19-21).
  3. Surely, the resurrection of Jesus made the difference.

## II. The Release

- A. (Acts 4:21-22).
- B. They threatened and further threatened them (Acts 4:17-18, 21).
- C. Notice the corruption of the leaders (Acts 4:21).
  1. Peter and John heal a man who was lame for more than 40 years (Acts 3:1-8).
  2. Instead of praising them for healing this man, their inclination is to punish them (Acts 4:22).
  3. How corrupt is that?

## III. The Prayer

- A. (Acts 4:23-31).
- B. Take careful note of that which they did and did not pray.
  1. They did not pray for a new form of government or a new leader; realizing the futility of governments (Acts 4:25-28).
    - a. Christianity doesn't need the right party in power to thrive.
    - b. Christianity doesn't need the right candidate to be elected.
  2. They prayed for boldness to speak God's word!
- C. This is what we ought to be praying for today.
  1. Maybe we should stop asking God to change the world.
  2. Maybe we should start asking God to change us!

- Conclusion:
1. Take Courage!
  2. Don't allow the election to shake you.
  3. Remember, Christianity doesn't need the right party or the right candidate to thrive. It simply needs boldness exhibited in those who wear the name of Jesus!