

Bi 203 — Acts Fall, 2015

Acts 4:1-6

RULERS, ELDERS, SCRIBES

Week 03

1

At the Arrest (4:1-4)

- **The Priests**
- **The Temple Guard** — This is not an armed military force, Rather it is a group of the priests who are militia trained that serve the temple.
- **The Sadducees** — Influential Jews, many of whom were priests. These were politically and religiously liberal being open to the Hellenistic movements and not believing in the resurrection

Week 03

2

At the hearing (4:5-6)

- **Rulers, refers to the High Priest & Chief Priest**
- **Elders, Lay members of the council — Aristocratic families aligned with the sadducees**
- **Scribes, scholars to interpret, teach and preserve the law.**
- **Annas, the High Priest, 6CE to 15CE (retired)**
- **Caiaphas High Priest, 18CE to 37CE also serving as president of the Sanhedrin & Political head of Israel. Son in Law of Annas.**
- **John, Priest, likely son of Annas and likely succeeded his brother in law as High Priest in 37CE**
- **Alexander Priest, family of Annas**

Week 03

3

The Later Trial

- **Captain of the Temple Police, A Priest, who is responsible for temple security and is second in command to the High Priest**
- **Pharisee — the conservative, and religious political group in Israel**
- **Gamaliel — A Pharisee, Greatest teacher of the day (in Judaism) (roughly 25CE to 50CE). He was the grandson of Hillel, and the spiritual father of Saul of Tarsus.**

Week 03

4

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Acts 3:19-20

**WOULD JESUS HAVE RETURNED AND SET UP
HIS KINGDOM IF THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAD
REPENTED?**

Week 03

5

Thoughts:

It seems likely that if the Jewish people had repented at Peter's preaching, there might have been a very short church age !

But, Peter was not locking himself into any time schedules for prophetic events. His point was simply that there can be no blessing until the Jewish nation changes its' mind about Jesus. Jesus will not come bringing the blessings of the kingdom apart from Israel's repentance.

Week 03

6

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Acts 4:19-20

**ARE THERE TIMES WHEN A CHRISTIAN MAY
CHOOSE TO DISOBEY CIVIL AUTHORITY?**

Week 03

7

Thoughts:

Romans 13:1-7
1 Peter 2:13-17

While Paul commanded believers to “be in subjection to the governing authorities,” there appear to be times when Christians may disobey governing authorities. Civil disobedience may be defined as any action taken by an individual citizen who out of regard for personal conscience, violates the laws of government which are in conflict with the higher law of God.

Week 03

8

Biblical Examples of Civil Disobedience

- Hebrew Midwives (Ex 1:15-17)
- Moses parents (Ex 1:22-2:3)
- Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Obadiah (1 Kings 18)
- Daniel's friends (Dan 3)
- Daniel (Dan 6)
- Peter and the apostles (Acts 4:19-20, 5:9)
- Paul (Acts 16:37-40)

Week 03

9

Consider:

Biblical examples of civil disobedience are seen in the following areas:

1. Protection of innocent human life
2. Protection of God's people
— the Hebrews and the prophets.
3. Refusing to bow down to a false god.
4. Refusing to cease personal worship of God
5. Refusing to cease proclamation of the gospel.

Week 03

10

Considerations for anyone contemplating civil disobedience



1. **A last resort - Civil disobedience (CD) is the last resort effort after other legislative measures have been tried and repeatedly failed.**
2. **A priority issue — CD should focus on priority issues-worship of God, and issues of personhood (ie, life, abortion, euthanasia, infanticide).**
3. **Carefully make sure you know the consequences of your actions and are prepared to accept them**
4. **Peacefully — Destruction of property or life violates other clear teachings of Scripture and is not warranted.**

Week 03

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Considerations for anyone contemplating civil disobedience (cont)



5. **Humbly - Those involved should not participate for the purpose of attracting attention to themselves or to gain a sense of superiority.**
6. **Christ-like - Believers are ambassadors for Jesus Christ and their attitudes and actions must be above reproach at all times.**
7. **Conviction — One must come with a conviction of personal conscience that this is the right thing and the only thing to do.**

As for the consequences of CD:

Week 03

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