

“And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.” *Acts 4:1-3 (ESV)*

1. Sharing our hope in Jesus to the world brings _____.

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” *Matthew 10:26-28 (ESV)*

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders...’” *Acts 4:8 (ESV)*

“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” *Acts 4:11-12 (ESV)*

2. Our ultimate leader is God, not the world’s _____.

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” *John 15:18-19 (ESV)*

“But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, saying, ‘What shall we do with these men?’” *Acts 4:15-16a (ESV)*

“So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’” *Acts 4:18-20 (ESV)*

3. Though _____ from authorities is hoped for, God’s is required.

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval.”

Romans 13:1-3 (ESV)

“When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, ‘Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’...” *Acts 4:23-26 (ESV)*

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” *Acts 4:31 (ESV)*

4. Consume God’s word, pray, evaluate your conscience, then share your hope _____.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” *Romans 8:31 (ESV)*

“Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.” *Psalms 2:10-12 (ESV)*