

The Only Name

Acts 4: 1-12

Radical Hindus in India have become increasingly violent and open in their persecution of Christians in recent decades. Prime Minister Modi's leadership has advanced not a law, but an ideology called Hindutva, or Hindu purity, that has resulted in the persecution of Christians. This ideology is Hindu nationalism at its core with the goal of creating a "pure" Hindu nation. Hindutva, as embraced and promoted by Prime Minister Modi, has created an unquestionably restrictive environment for Christians throughout the subcontinent. Historically, the persecution of Christians in India has occurred mostly at the leading edge of gospel ministry, in predominantly Hindu areas. The situation has changed.

"Now, this is the full-fledged urging of Hindu nationalism, which is to eliminate Christians from the 'Hindu homeland.'"

—COLE RICHARDS, VOM PRESIDENT

- Persecution -
 - John 15:18-20 and John 16:2 -
 - 2 Timothy 3:12 - 12 - Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- 1. The Persecution and Arrest of the Apostles - Acts 4:1–4
 - a. More than just Peter "were speaking" - "they were speaking"
 - b. The Priests - Those who were serving at the Temple according to their time allotted
 - c. The captain, commander or general, was from the Levitical line - One who was only second in authority to the High Priest
 - d. The Sadducees - The wealthy landowners, religious and political force- John 11:47-50
 - e. The Leaders were upset for three reasons -
 - The Apostles were teaching the people, Acts 4:13 no training and in the Temple
 - The Proclamation in Jesus of the Resurrection from the Dead -
 - The Resurrection teaching pointed to the Messiah and a restoration of the Davidic Kingdom - Revolutionary ideas which would bring a Roman response.
- 2. The Protest of the Sanhedrin - Acts 4:5–7
 - a. No resistance and what an opportunity to preach Christ - 1 Peter 2:18-24
 - b. Mosaic Law specified if a miracle was performed and followed by a teaching, he who did the miracle was to be examined - Deuteronomy 13:1-5
- 3. The Proclamation of Peter - Acts 4:8–12
 - a. Being filled with the Holy Spirit - Luke 12:11-12
 - b. Pimplemi - Filled for a specific task
 - c. Yielding to the Holy Spirit will enable us and drive us closer to Christ
 - d. Peter indicts them using Psalm 118:22 they were enemies of God and the Church
 - e. Uneducated just like Jesus - Acts 4:13 and John 7:15-16
- 4. Application - The Boldness to Proclaim the Exclusivity of Jesus Christ the Nazarene -