

# Compass

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
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## ACTS 5:26-32 NLT

<sup>26</sup> The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. <sup>27</sup> Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. <sup>28</sup> "We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man's name!" he said. "Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!" <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him."

## OUR ALLEGIANCE BELONGS TO GOD

In today's society, our political landscape is trying to divert and split our Christian faith. We are witnessing certain governing bodies strip away policies meant to protect your right to vote, obtain good healthcare, provide affordable living, protect our kids, protect the sanctity of marriage, and even how we worship God.

Stay encouraged! No matter your situation, remain faithful to God. Luke reminds us, "...they are all guilty of treason against Caesar, for they profess allegiance to another king, named Jesus." (Acts 17:7b NLT) Likewise, Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority." (Acts 5:29)

After years of fighting for our right to vote, to be seen in hospitals, to own houses, to live in a certain part of the city, and to receive a good education, we find ourselves in courts trying to explain to human authority the validity of what God has provided. Yet Scripture states, "Do not be afraid of the nations there, for the Lord your God will fight for you. (Deu 3:22) And Jesus declares, "...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33b)

In our text, Peter and the apostles, through the power of the Holy Spirit, had established a community of sharing that was marred by a couple holding back part of their gift. Even so, the Holy Spirit continued to move through the apostle's healing ministry. (Acts 5: 1-16) This episode revealed that the Christians had all they needed, but it also stirred a spirit of jealousy among the Sadducees, who set out to stifle the apostles' message and retain their own influence and power.

Just as the apostles faced opposition in doing God's work, we may face resistance. Let us align ourselves with God, because the Lord fights for us!

## HOW DO YOU DETERMINE YOUR ALLEGIANCE?

After the deep reflection of Holy Week, pause and consider where your allegiance truly lies. Keep on loving others, honoring God, and continually praising Christ in ways that reflect the risen Lord whom God raised from the dead. (Heb 13:1-5, 15)



## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR

APRIL 12, 2026

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TITLE

WHOSE RULES  
RULE?

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1,  
6-8; 1 Peter 2:13-17

## MAIN THOUGHT

Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things that are the Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.  
Mark 12:17, NRSVue

## CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for another day, thank you for my health and strength. Father, please forgive me of my sins and help me to remain faithful to your word, while placing my allegiance to you. Thanks for all you do for me, in Jesus name, Amen!