

Week 07
040/325

Transforming Daily
“ . . . saying *there is another king - Jesus . . .*”
Acts 17:7

After Paul and Silas were released, the cowardly men who were not persuaded by the gospel message, raised up a mob of people referred to in Scripture as “evil men” to go after Jason and the others by whom Paul and Silas were refreshed. This mob of evil men and busybodies, troubled the townsfolk and rulers of the city with their report about what Paul, Silas, Jason and the other disciples preached. The report itself was correct. They did preach Jesus, but it was misconstrued and miscontextualized. Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, Caesar is the one who was just another king; and it was he and those who troubled Jason, and the disciples in his house, that had much to fear.

I just finished reading an article about a man being arrested at a mall for talking to people about their faith. It seems the mall security officers held a different perspective on what freedom of speech is all about. The mall does have policies regarding the safety and well being of its patrons, but this was clearly an attack on a disciple of Christ sharing the gospel. It wasn't the fear of eminent danger by the man, but the content of the man's conversation. By the way, the conversation wasn't reported by the individual whom the believer spoke to about Christ, but by an employee of one of the stores in the mall that said the patron looked nervous. The man, who was exercising his constitutional right of freedom of speech as a citizen of the United States, was arrested and handcuffed by mall security and later picked up by the local sheriff's department and taken to jail (he was never charged with a crime).

This event occurred in 2006. It has gone to court. The first court appearance found in favor of the mall. The man took his argument to an appellate court and is still waiting for a court date or a ruling on this matter. Are you doing the math? It happened in 2006; it is now 2010. Whether in the time of the first century church or the 21st century Christian there is always going to be resistance to the Word of God, and in particular, to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Does a story like that stir your soul? When you hear that a man sharing the gospel in a nonthreatening manner, after first seeking and receiving the permission of the one whom he desired to speak with, in a mall in the United States, how do you respond? Has something like this happened to you? Be encouraged. The Lord's coming is near, and when He does appear everyone will understand fully why the believer is right in saying there is another King – Jesus.