

Verse Analysis – Acts 4:21

Categories:

A	adjective
C	conjunction
D	adverb
I	interjection
N	noun
P	preposition
DA	definite article
DP	demonstrative pronoun
IP	interrogative/indefinite pronoun
PP	personal pronoun
RP	relative pronoun
V	verb
X	particle

Person:

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person

Voice:

A	active
M	middle
P	passive

Case:

N	nominative
G	genitive
D	dative
A	accusative
V	vocative

Gender:

M	masculine
F	feminine
N	neuter

Tense:

P	present
I	imperfect
F	future
A	aoist
X	perfect
Y	pluperfect

Mood:

I	indicative
D	imperative
S	subjunctive
O	optative
N	infinitive
P	participle

Number:

S	singular
P	plural

Degree:

C	comparative
S	superlative

Frequency:

Number of times the word is used in the NT. Words with freq. < 30 are not worth memorizing. They are why God made the Internet.

H	High frequency – used more than 750 times
M	Medium frequency – Used from 101 to 750 times
L	Low frequency – Used from 30 to 100 times
R	Rare – Used less than 30 times

→ Memorizing all words used 150+ times will give you a handle on 70% of the NT.
 → Memorizing all words use 30+ times will give you a handle on 85% of the NT.

Acts 4:21

Page 1 of 4

Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
οἱ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					N	P	M	
δὲ	δέ	but, and, then, rather	H	C								
προσαπειλησάμενοι	προσαπειλέομαι	aor. mid. ptcp.; to add threats, threaten further	R	V		A	M	P	N	P	M	
ἀπέλυσαν	ἀπολύω	pr. to loose; to release from a tie or burden, Mt. 18:27; to divorce, Mt. 1:19; to remit, forgive, Lk.	L	V	3	A	A	I		P		
αὐτούς	αὐτός	he, she, it; also used as inten.p., himself, herself, itself, themselves; the same one; also an adv. of place: here,	H	PP					A	P	M	
μηδέν	μηδεῖς	not one, none, no one, Mt. 8:4	L	A					A	S	N	
εὕρισκοντες	εὕρισκω	to find, to meet with; Mt. 18:28; 20:6; to find out, to detect, discover, Lk. 23:2, 4, 14; to acquire,	M	V		P	A	P	N	P	M	
τὸ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					A	S	N	

Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
πῶς	πῶς	how? in what way?; how!	M	D								
κολάσωνται	κολάζω	pr. to curtail, to coerce; to chastise, punish, Acts 4:21; 2 Pet. 2:9*	R	V	3	A	M	S		P		
αὐτούς	αὐτός	he, she, it; also used as inten.p., himself, herself, itself, themselves; the same one; also an adv. of place: here,	H	PP					A	P	M	
διὰ	διά	(gen.) through, by means of; (acc.) because of, for the sake of, therefore	M	P								
τὸν	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					A	S	M	
λαόν	λαός	a body of people; a concourse of people, a multitude, Mt. 27:25; Lk. 8:47; the common people, Mt. 26:5;	M	N					A	S	M	
ὅτι	ὅτι	that; because, since; for	H	C								
πάντες	πᾶς	all, every (thing, one), whole; always	H	A					N	P	M	
ἐδόξαζον	δοξάζω	to think, suppose, judge; to extol, magnify, Mt. 6:2; Lk. 4:15; in NT to adore, worship, Rom. 1:21; to	L	V	3	I	A	I		P		
τὸν	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					A	S	M	
θεὸν	θεός	God, usually refers to the one true God; in a very few contexts it refers to a (pagan) god or goddess.	H	N					A	S	M	
ἐπὶ	ἐπί	(gen.) on, over, when; (dat.) on, at, in, while; (acc.) across, over, on, to, for, while	H	P								
τῷ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					D	S	N	
γεγονότι	γίνομαι	to be, become, happen; to come into existence, be born. It is used in certain contexts to introduce a	M	V		X	A	P	D	S	N	

Greek Verse

Acts 4:21 οἱ δὲ προσαπειλησάμενοι ἀπέλυσαν αὐτούς, μηδὲν εὕρισκοντες τὸ πῶς κολάσωνται αὐτούς, διὰ τὸν λαόν, ὅτι πάντες ἐδόξαζον τὸν θεὸν ἐπὶ τῷ γεγονότι

Word-for-Word
Translation

Proper Translation

After threatening them further, they released them since they could find no way that they might punish them, because of the people — who all were praising God because of what had happened.

Comments and
Questions

The οἱ turns the participle προσαπειλησάμενοι into almost a noun. Lit. "After the threatening..." But to get a good English translation, I translate it as a conventional participle, with an -ing ending.

Something similar happens in the last two words, where the τῷ turns γεγονότι into something of a noun.

Good example of where κολάσωνται subjunctive deals with the hypothetical rather than a matter of fact. They wanted to punish them but were unable. It never happened.

I have not seen this precise situation...but in my lifetime, I have seen some analogous scenarios where leaders got their noses out of joint because people were praising God because of what had happened...once where somebody said, "God doesn't work that way here."

"This," says a twentieth-century Jewish historian, "was the first mistake which the Jewish leaders made with regard to the new sect. And this mistake was fatal. There was probably no need to arrest the Nazarenes, thus calling attention to them and making them 'martyrs'. But once arrested, they should not have been freed so quickly."

J. Klausner, From Jesus to Paul (London, 1944), pp. 282–83. Quoted in:

F. F. Bruce, *The Book of the Acts, The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand