

Defending the Faith  
Luke 22:35-38, 47-53

Main Idea: Defending the faith requires shrewd preparation and non-violence in the face of religious persecution.

I. We need to be prepared for difficulty and opposition (Luke 22:35-38)

II. We should be non-violent in the face of government sponsored persecution (Luke 22 :47-53)

Government Sponsored Persecution in the Book of Acts

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Government Action</u>	<u>Disciples' Response</u>
Acts 4	Religious leaders arrested Peter & John.	They refused to stop speaking re: Jesus.
Acts 5	Religious leaders arrested the apostles. Religious leaders re-arrested them & flogged them.	An angel set them free. The apostles continued to preach Jesus.
Acts 6-7	Religious leaders arrested Stephen and then stoned him.	Stephen proclaimed the truth.
Acts 8	Saul led persecution against the church	Christians scattered from Jerusalem.
Acts 12	King Herod executed James and arrested Peter.	An angel set him free.
Acts 13	Jews & leading women at Psidian Antioch drove Paul & Barnabas out of town.	They went on to Iconium to preach.
Acts 14	Jews and Gentiles collaborated w/ city rulers to stone Paul & Barnabas. Jews from Antioch & Iconium stoned Paul in Lystra	They fled. Paul recovered and went to Derbe
Acts 16	City officials beat Paul & Silas and threw them into prison.	An earthquake released them and Paul claimed his Roman citizenship.
Acts 17	Jews in Thessalonika worked w/ city Authorities to get a pledge from Jason.	Paul and Silas left for Berea.

Reference	Government Action	Disciples' Response
Acts 21	A mob of Jews tries to kill Paul; Roman soldiers take him away in chains.	The Christians sent Paul away.
Acts 22	The Roman Commander plans to scourge Paul.	Paul claims Roman citizenship & saves himself from scourging.
Acts 23	The Romans transport Paul to Felix the Governor.	Paul testifies to Felix.
Acts 25	Festus tries to send Paul to Jerusalem	Paul appeals to Caesar.
Acts 28	Paul is placed under house arrest in Rome.	Paul preaches the kingdom daily.

### III. Self-defense is a legitimate option.

<sup>2</sup> **"If the thief is caught while breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account.** Exodus 22:2 (NASB)