

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Unexpected Moments In Ministry”**
 - (Acts 23:11 – 24:26) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

ALRIGHT...

- This morning we're going to look at two chapters...
 - (Acts 23 & 24).

AS WE NEAR THE END OF OUR STUDY THRU (Acts)...

- It has taken us 2-years to get to this point – (started *Fall* 2022).

SO...

- Let's remember the big picture of this BOOK...
 - Before we go on.

Four Main Movements In Acts:

- 1) The promise of power – *Holy Spirit* enabling (Acts 1)
- 2) Birth of the Church and 3,000 come to faith (Acts 2 – 3)
- 3) Peter unlocked the Gospel message to...
 - (Jews, Samaritans, & Gentiles) (Acts 4 – 12)
- 4) Paul took the Gospel to Gentiles in the west...
 - (all the way to Rome) (Acts 13 – 28)

TODAY...

- We're the people the *Holy Spirit* is working in & thru...
 - As ambassadors of Christ...
 - We speak FOR Jesus to the world.
 - (2 Cor. 5:20, 21 & 6:1) NLT

AND... THIS IS WHY... IT'S BEEN IMPORTANT...

- For us to gain a general understanding of ministry.

~ STUDY ~

NOW... THIS MORNING...

- We're introduced to **“Unexpected Moments In Ministry.”**

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HERE’S WHAT WE CAN LEARN...

IDEA #1 – COMPELLED BY CONVICTION:

PAUL WAS A HARD CHARGING MAN...

- But it wasn’t according to his human desire.

IN (Acts 20:22-24)

- “*I go bound*” = Lit. compelled by conviction.

(Philp. 2:12-13) NLT

(Ps. 51:12) NLT

- The Holy Spirit placed a strong desire in Paul...
 - To get to Jerusalem.

YET...

- In all the lead up to get to Jerusalem...
 - Paul’s friends were telling him that it was dangerous...
 - And jail & suffering were ahead!
 - (Acts 21:4) & (Acts 21:10-12).

AND THEY WERE ALL RIGHT!

- But... they were missing God’s purpose.
 - God was moving Paul forward...
 - Into the next phase of his ministry.

FLIP TO (2 Cor. 4:8-16) NLT

- While unexpected moments left an imprint on Paul’s life...
 - He was still compelled to continue forward!

IDEA #2 – SAFE TRAVEL:

PAUL’S... ARRIVAL... IN JERUSALEM GOES BAD!

- But in the middle of the trouble...
 - Jesus appeared to Paul...
 - And gave him a vision for the future.

(Acts 23:11) NKJV

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HERE’S THE KEY...

- God used an unexpected way to move Paul forward.

(Acts 23:12-22)

- A plot to kill Paul was discovered by his nephew...
 - And he told the Roman Commander...
 - Who was keeping Paul in jail.

(Acts 23:23-32)

- God used this to move Paul & prepare him for what was ahead.
 - He was given a military escort by 470 men...
 - To get him out of the city.

(Acts 23:33-35)

HE WAS THEN TAKEN TO...

- Caesarea Maritima where... Roman a Governor (Felix)...
 - Made rulings for Rome.

AND WHILE PAUL...

- Made it here safely...
 - There was still a long road ahead of him...
 - With the legal challenges he faced!

NOW...

- Paul was in Caesarea about a week before his accusers showed up...
 - The High Priest of Judaism
 - The Elders of Judaism
 - And an attorney named Tertullus (Acts 24:1)

THREE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PAUL:¹

- 1) *Personal charge* – public nuisance with treasonous intent (24:5a)
- 2) *Political charge* – inciting people to rebel against authority (24:5b)
- 3) *Religious charge* – starting a new religion (24:5c)

By painting Paul as the ringleader of a cult...

- It suggested he was creating rebellion in Jerusalem.

¹ The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: New Testament (p.397). Published by David C. Cook (2007).

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- Rome was known to eliminate any type of uprising of the people...
 - That disturbed the *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace). ²
 - AND they had a zero tolerance for riotous behavior.

POINT BEING...

- The religious Jews from Jerusalem...
 - Tried to fabricate a story to have Paul eliminated.

IDEA #3 – TIME TO THINK:

NOW...

- Some commentators say... God used this time to prepare Paul...
 - For his next step... (the mission to Rome).
 - Paul was held in Caesarea for 2-years – (Acts 24:27).

FOR US... THE BIBLE SAYS...

- It's the word of God that prepares Christians...
 - For their purpose...
 - (2 Tim 3:16-17) NKJV

I LOVE THAT ABOUT GOD...

- He directs our steps and helps us for what's next.

IN... (1 Kings 19:4-18)

- There's a story of Elijah after he experienced an amazing victory.
 - One woman (Jezebel... King Ahab's wife)...
 - Sent him running for his life.

WE CAN LEARN...

- That following a major victory...
 - The enemy likes to target us when we're weak & depleted.

ELIJAH...

- Was depressed / exhausted / & wanted to die (1 Kings 19:4) NKJV
 - But God helped him with some practical steps.
 - (Sleep / food / hearing Gods voice / & taking it slow).

² Ibid., (p.398).

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~ IN CLOSING ~

CONSIDER SOME BASIC TOOLS...

- To keep you moving forward.

Five Types of Rest:

- 1) *Active Rest* – Hobbies / exercise
- 2) *Passive Rest* – Downtime / time to think / taking it slow
- 3) *Physical Rest* – Sleep
- 4) *Social Rest* – Food & fellowship with others
- 5) *Spiritual Rest* – Waiting on the Lord for new strength

*IF YOU NEED PRAYER...

- Or want to express faith in Jesus please come forward...
 - And speak to one of the pastors or women’s ministry leaders.