

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

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Where Are You God?”**
➤ (Acts 24:24 – 25:27) NKJV

~INTRO~

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

- We see the conclusion of a life lived for Jesus.
- Paul got caught up in the legal system...
➤ And from his perspective... it was hinder his ministry.

YET...

- As we discover in scripture...
➤ Present set backs are often the breeding ground for next steps.

OK... REMEMBER...

- Paul was in custody in Caesarea waiting for his court case to be heard.
➤ And his accusers were the religious elites...
 - The High Priest of Judaism
 - The Elders of Judaism
 - And an attorney named Tertullus (Acts 24:1)

THEY BROUGHT 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 against Rome (24:5c)

They painted Paul as the ringleader of a cult...

- That was creating rebellion in Jerusalem...
➤ Against the *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace).²
- The Jews fabricated stories attempting to have Paul put to death.

NOW... AS WE PICK UP TODAY...

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

² Ibid., (p.398).

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- (Acts 24:24-26) Follow along.

HERE'S WHAT WE CAN LEARN...

IDEA #1 – A POWERFUL TESTIMONY

THE TRAVELING MINISTRY OF PAUL...

- Had come to an end... No more mission trips.
➤ BUT the effectiveness of the Gospel was still at work.

FELIX...

- Was a slave that had rose to the position of Governor.
➤ He was an evil & ruthless man on his third marriage.

~ The Roman Historian, Tacitus ~

*Felix exercised the prerogatives of a king with the spirit of a slave. He ruled with a mixture of cruelty, lust, and servility. He was notoriously wicked.*³

IN (Acts 24:24-25)

- Paul was called in to talk with Felix & his wife (Drusilla) about Jesus.
➤ He spoke to them about three things:
 - 1) Righteousness
 - 2) Self-control
 - 3) The judgment to come

IN THE GOSPEL OF (John 16:8-11) NLT

- The Holy Spirit will convict the world of three things:
 - 1) *Sin* = Refusal to believe in Jesus
 - 2) *Righteousness* = Christ is the only way to God
 - 3) *Judgment* = The coming judgment

AS PAUL LAID OUT THE TRUTH TO FELIX...

- The Holy Spirit convicted him so deeply...
➤ That he became *frightened* (v.25).
- His eyes were opened to truth...
➤ But though he trembled... he didn't change.
 - Conviction was present...but repentance was refused.

³ *The Book of Acts* Commentary, by Chuck Smith (p.434). Copyright 2013 The Word for Today.

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(Ecc. 7:29) NLT

*“God created people to be virtuous,
but they have each turned to follow their own downward path.”*

(2 Cor. 6:1-2) NKJV

(Isa. 55:6) NLT

NOW...HISTORY RECORDS...

- Felix the Governor was **removed** after 7-years in office...
➤ By the Roman Senate & Festus took over after him.⁴

IDEA #2 – WHY AM I STILL SITTING HERE

TWO YEARS HAD GONE BY (Acts 24:27)...

- And there was no progress with Paul's case.
➤ He was still in the same place – Caesarea Maritima.
 - And no doubt getting impatient.

YET...

- God had positioned Paul to speak to different Roman Leaders.
➤ He gave the Gospel & his testimony to three Governors:
 - 1) Felix (Acts 24:24-25)
 - 2) Festus (Acts 26:24)
 - 3) Agrippa II (Acts 26:28)

AND WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS!

- Sometimes we must get comfortable with being uncomfortable.
- Paul was going to Rome for Jesus...
➤ And the Lord was with him... as his trip was delayed.
 - His *trial* of being wrongly accused...
 - Deepened his witness & testimony.

UNDERSTAND IT THIS WAY CHURCH...

- Your pain is producing praise!

⁴ Ibid., (p.434).

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CONSDIER A FEW SHAPING VERSES:

(Ecc. 7:3) NLT

(Ecc. 7:9) NLT

(Ecc. 5:1) NLT

(Job 33:14-15) NLT

(Gen. 28:16) NLT

IDEA #3 – I'M INNOCENT

(Ecc. 7:13-14) NLT

- Learning to accept what God gives us.

PAUL WAS INNOCENT...

- And after two years God still had not freed him.

IN FACT... (Acts 25:3)

- Says another ambush was being planned to take Paul's life.
 - Surely there was a temptation to get a little frustrated.
 - (Acts 25:10-12)

(Rom. 8:16-19) NKJV

- Creation groans (v.22)
- We groan (v.23)
- The Spirit groans (v.26)

HERE'S THE POINT...

- God is present in your life & He's taking you deeper...
 - Then you've been before.

~IN CLOSING~

CAN I INVITE YOU...

- To renew your faith in Jesus this morning?