

Living at *peace* in the midst of turmoil.

Acts: Part 24 (Acts Chapter 24) Noah Largent 7/20/14

ACTS:
A HISTORY BOOK
Living IN YOU.
VINTAGE IDEAS FOR LIVING TODAY

Acts 23 Paul in Prison in Jerusalem and Caesarea

10 The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

vs.22-24 The commander ²³called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight.

²⁴ Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix."

Acts 24 The Charges against Paul

Charge #1 "a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world."

Charge #2 "He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect."

Charge #3 "He tried to desecrate the temple."

Answer #1 "¹¹You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹²My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹⁸I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple.

Answer #2 ¹⁴ However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Answer #3 ¹⁹But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me.

Acts 24 Paul Waits (and waits, and waits)

²² Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case."

²⁴ Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁵ As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." ²⁶ At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

²⁷ When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

Living at peace in the midst of turmoil.

Paul reminds us to:

1. Live with integrity.

Knowing what is right and doing what is right reduces self-inflicted turmoil.

2. Tell the Truth.

Very few things can complicate life like spinning webs of half truths and outright lies! Telling the truth in love is one of the best tools to help others make good decisions.

3. Expect Challenges!

Don't let your happiness depend on the absence of challenges!

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
-John 16:33

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong! -2 Cor. 12:9-10

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. -James 1:2

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. -Genesis 50:20