

ONE message. people. mission.



Standing for the Word of the Gospel

Acts 22:30 – 26:32

Main Idea

The Gospel is the One key to unlocking the message of the Bible, and it is worth standing for.

Overview

- **Second Trial (First was to people in chapter 22): Council of high priests**
 - Pharisees & Sadducees argue over Paul
 - Sadducees do not believe in resurrection
 - Pharisees do believe in resurrection, find no fault in Paul
 - They seem to be unconvinced of the legitimacy of Gospel (23.9)
 - The Lord gives assurance that Paul will make it to Rome (23.11)
 - The Jews plot to kill Paul (23.12-22)

- **Third Trial: Paul in front of Governor Felix (24)**
 - Tertullus (Enemy of Paul) argues three things of Paul
 - Stirring up riots in crowds (24.5)
 - Ring leader of “sect” of Nazarenes (24.5)
 - Tried to profane the Temple (24.6)
 - Paul refutes all three charges
 - Wasn’t stirring up crowds (24.12)
 - “The Way” is in keeping with Scriptures (24.14-15)
 - Was purified in the Temple (24.18)
 - Paul is clearly standing for the Gospel (24.24-25)

- **Fourth Trial: Paul before Festus (25)**
 - Jews bring charges, but they cannot be proved (25.7)
 - Paul is innocent: Appeals to Caesar likely because he can get a more fair trial than w/ Jews (25.11)

- **Fifth Trial: Before Agrippa (26)**
 - Agrippa entire family has a long line of persecution
 - Paul shares testimony:
 - He once was a Pharisee (26.5)
 - He persecuted as did the others (26.11)
 - Resurrected Christ appeared to Him (26.14-15)
 - Commissioned to preach Gospel to Gentiles (26.17)
 - Paul sees Scripture as pointing to Christ (26.22-23)

Questions

Discussion starter: Have you ever known anyone to stand for something that was costly? Or, discuss other things people were willing to stand for in history or in the “now.”

1. Why do you think Paul was so willing to go through all of this?
2. What is the difference between Paul and us today? That is, what keeps us from being motivated to stand for the Gospel as he did?
3. Looking at these chapters, how did Paul read the Bible? Did he see himself as creating a new “sect” or religion? How does that inform the way we pursue and speak about our faith?
4. Have you found reading the 1T (OT) as Christian Scripture easy – that is, do you find it easy to “see” Christ in the OT? Share specific Scriptures that you have found it “easy” to see Christ. Share specific places where you find it difficult to “see” Christ.
5. How can we gain courage as Paul did?
6. What is the thrust behind Paul getting to Rome for the author (and for the Lord)?

Accountability Question: Spend some time in prayer regarding areas you need to have courage to stand for the Gospel. Are there certain people that you need courage to share the gospel with? Hold one another accountable to meeting up with those people in the hopes of sharing Christ with them.