

IN^{POWERED} DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Hopeful Discipleship

Acts 24:1-27

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1

Focal Passages

➤ Scripture Reading Volunteers:

- ✓ Acts 24:1-9
- ✓ Acts 24:10-21
- ✓ Acts 24:22-27

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2

2



Does anyone here record sporting events for their favorite team?

Do you check the score before watching the replay?

3

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive **POWER** when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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4

PAUL'S UNFAIR TRIAL

Acts 24:1-9

¹ Five days later Ananias the high priest came down with some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus. These men presented their case against Paul to the governor. ² When Paul was called in, Tertullus began to accuse him and said, "We enjoy great peace because of you, and reforms are taking place for the benefit of this nation because of your foresight. ³ We acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with utmost gratitude. ⁴ But, so that I will not burden you any further, I request that you would be kind enough to give us a brief hearing. ⁵ For we have found this man to be a plague, an agitator among all the Jews throughout the Roman world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶ He even tried to desecrate the temple, and so we apprehended him. ⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to discern the truth about these charges we are bringing against him." ⁹ The Jews also joined in the attack, alleging that these things were true.

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5

5

PAUL'S UNFAIR TRIAL

ACTS 24:5-6

How are these charges partially true about Paul?

⁵For we have found this man to be a **plague**, an **agitator** among all the Jews throughout the Roman world, and a **ringleader** of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶He even tried to **desecrate** the temple, and so we apprehended him.

➤ What four charges did they bring against Paul?

1. **Plague** – *he is infectious with his enthusiasm*
2. **Agitator** – *he is persuasive with his testimony*
3. **Ringleader** – *he does inspire others to follow*
4. **Revolutionary** – *he does preach a different Way*

Enemies of the Way were constantly twisting circumstances and distorting the truth in an attempt to gain the advantage.

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6

6

PAUL'S UNFAIR**TRIAL**

ACTS 24:5-6

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1 Peter 5:8

*Be sober-minded, be alert. **Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.***

Ephesians 6:11-13

*¹¹**Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.** ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. ¹³For this reason **take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.***

7

7

PAUL'S UNFAIR**TRIAL**

ACTS 24:5-6

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1 Peter 3:13-15

*¹³Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason **for the hope that is in you.***

8

8

PAUL'S HOPEFUL DEFENSE

Acts 24:10-21

¹⁰ When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied, "Because I know you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I am glad to offer my defense in what concerns me. ¹¹ You can verify for yourself that it is no disturbance among the city. ¹² They didn't find me arguing in the temple or in the synagogue, or proving the charges they are now making against me. ¹³ Neither can they prove the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴ I worship the God of my ancestors according to the Way, which they call a sect, believing everything that is in accordance with the law and written in the prophets. ¹⁵ I have a hope in God, which these men themselves also accept, **that there will be a resurrection, both of the righteous and the unrighteous.** ¹⁶ I always strive to have a clear conscience toward God and men. ¹⁷ After many years, I came to bring charitable gifts and offerings to my people. ¹⁸ While I was doing this, some Jews from Asia found me ritually purified in the temple, without a crowd and without any uproar. ¹⁹ It is they who ought to be here before you to bring charges, if they have anything against me. ²⁰ Or let these men here state what wrongdoing they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin, ²¹ other than this one statement I shouted while standing among them, 'Today I am on trial before you concerning the resurrection of the dead.' "

Paul is hopeful that he will see Jesus face-to-face again in heaven!

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9

9

PAUL'S FAITHFUL TESTIMONY

Acts 24:22-27

²² Since Felix was well informed about the Way, he adjourned the hearing, saying, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case."

²³ He ordered that the centurion keep Paul under guard, though he could have some freedom, and that he should not prevent any of his friends from meeting his needs.

²⁴ Several days later, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and listened to him on the subject of faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ Now as he spoke about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became afraid and said, "I'll call for you." ²⁶ He was also hoping that Paul would offer him money. So he sent for him and conversed with him.

²⁷ After **two years** had passed, Porcius Festus succeeded Felix, and because Felix wanted to do the Jews a favor, **he left Paul in prison.**

For two years!

But Paul never lost hope, because he believed Jesus and trusted His promise.

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10

10

INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

Hopeful Discipleship

- ➔ **The Apostle Paul did everything right; in his own words, he said he had a clear conscience before God.** (Acts 23:1, 24:16)
- ➔ **Yet he found himself falsely accused, locked up, and deprived of the one thing he loved most – traveling the world and preaching the Gospel.**
- ➔ **It would be easy to lose hope in such circumstances, easy to give up and give in, but Paul did not. As he told his dear friends in Philippi:**
 - ❖ *“I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”* (Philippians 3:13-14)
 - ❖ **Paul never lost hope, no matter how bleak the circumstances, and neither should we. **Press on!****

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11

11

INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Unconstrained Discipleship

Acts 25:1 – 26:32

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12