

Acts 24 – 25 October 2020

“Where Are You On The Inside?”

Introduction

*In Acts 21-22 – Paul’s been beaten by the Jews & arrested by the Romans, BUT given the chance to speak openly to his people!

*In Acts 23 – We saw the bravery of convictions of Paul’s young nephew (the hero of the story)

*B/c of him, Paul was moved by the Romans safely to Caesarea on the coast awaiting a hearing by Gov Felix

Where is Paul? He’s been in jail for some time, but Jesus had told him that he’ll yet testify in Rome!

Paul speaking of afflictions said, (Read II Cor 4:16)

So there’s a physical place where you are, but there’s also a spiritual place where you are!

Today, we’ll examine the only 3 places your spirit can be

1st Spiritual place you can be is in a Religious Rut & that's where these Jews live (Chap 24:1-9)

Read Vs 1-4

1. The Jewish leaders have hired a professional lawyer, Tertullus, to argue on their behalf
2. Never hurts to be nice to judge, but we know
 - a. Their methods are deceit
 - b. Their goals are murderous

Read Vs 5-6a

1. The charges: Pestilent, Insurrectionist, The Leader, tried profaning the Temple
2. Insinuated Paul was doing this against Rome!
3. Truth is Paul wasn't even an insurrectionist against Judaism, but they saw it that way.
4. Instead of being in a religious rut, unwilling to change, Israel should have been ready to grow.
 - a. Turn to Jer 31:31-33
 - b. Continuing revelation & growth in God was seen as a threat & not accepted of them

Read Vs 6b-7

1. This is a flat out LIE. Re-read Acts 21:31
 - a. They were gonna kill him
 - b. They weren't gonna give required trial 1st
2. Read John 18:31 - Not allowed to execute
3. They not only weren't open to continuing revelation from God, but were willing to violate the Law of Moses to stay in their religious rut.

Read Vs 8-9

1. We're fine to deal w/ this, but Capt stepped in
2. These Jews will lie & murder to stop "the way"
 - a. They have no interest in following truth
 - b. Unlike Paul, their power & position is too important to give up in order to follow God

Application

1. You know you're living in a religious rut when you think you have nothing new to learn & you're willing to sin to maintain your position

2nd Spiritual place you can be is on Resurrection Road & that's where Paul lives (Chap 24:10-21)

Read Vs 10-13

1. Paul 1st disputes the false charges
2. You have to deal w/ the open discussion first, to get to what you want to talk about

Read Vs 14-16

1. Paul says, “There problem is that I worship the Jewish God but in a new way, a new covenant”
2. Vs 14 - He even says he believes whole O.T. which includes the belief in resurrection
3. In this new “way”, one actually rose from dead
4. Vs 16 = “Herein do I exercise myself” – THIS is what I’ve been busy doing

Read Vs 17-20

1. Paul says, “I was doing good in the temple when they attacked me.”
2. No other crime to this story than resurrection!

Read Vs 21

1. If Paul hadn't proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus, he would never have been arrested
2. Paul will let nothing distract him from preaching the resurrection of Christ

Application

1. You know you're living on resurrection road when you're focused on the Gospel & you don't allow other issues to become your main purpose.
2. There's only ONE thing that can change the destiny of your friends & family; it's the resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. I recently asked Stan Hott, a championship winning High School Soccer Coach, 'What should an athlete's main purpose be?'
 - a. Answer: "Make your team mates better"
 - b. Msg of resurrection is for YOUR family!!!
 - c. Msg of resurrection is for YOUR friends!!!

3rd Spiritual place you can be is in a Selfish Snare & that's where Felix lives (Chap 24:22-27)

Read Vs 22-23

1. Felix says that he wanted to hear from Lysias
 - a. But it's really just a stall tactic
 - b. What's he postponing for?
 - c. We'll see, in just a few verses
2. He gives Paul some liberty in the meantime

Read Vs 24-25

1. This is amazing evangelism by the Holy Spirit
 - a. Notice Paul reasons of “righteousness, temperance and judgement to come”
 - b. Read John 16:8 – It's H.S. that would lead Paul to evangelize this way
 - c. This is the Way of the Master
 - i. Reason of Sin – We're guilty of the Law
 - ii. Reason of Righteousness – God's holy
 - iii. Reason of judgement to come – Judgement Day's coming – what will you do?

2. This seems so sincere that Felix wants to hear about the Lord. Wrong! Look at next verse.
 - a. Even though Felix wasn't sincere, notice how the Word of God was still doing its amazing work...it says "Felix trembled".
 - b. You never know what God's Word is doing when you give it out.
 - i. Regardless of the reaction you're getting openly, God is doing a work underneath.

Read Vs 26

1. Felix kept bringing Paul back "to hear the Gospel" b/c his flesh wanted a bribe from Paul
2. You wonder how often Paul gave him Gospel?

Read Vs 27

1. This verse is all you need to know that he never received the Gospel

Application

2. You know you're living in a selfish snare when you placate and appease and even sit thru the Gospel to profit financially & politically

Conclusion

So where are you at?....on the inside?

1. **Like the Jews are you in a Religious Rut?**
 - a. If you willing to lose your integrity to keep doing what you're doing, you're in a rut.
 - b. We need to be willing to continue growing!
2. **Like Paul, are you on Resurrection Road?**
 - a. Are you focused on the Gospel & resurrection?
 - b. Are you focused on helping friends / family?
3. **Like Felix, are you in a Selfish Snare?**
 - a. You oughta find something worth living for other than this present life
 - b. Don't miss you chance to receive eternal salvation b/c you want something temporary

There are only 3 types of people – them that is, them that ain't and they that think they is, but ain't.