

Be Courageous!

Acts 22:30 – 24:27

Intro:

Can I be open and honest with all of you? I get exhausted sometimes, I feel defeated, I feel discouraged, and sometimes I even feel like I just can't continue on. Can you all relate to that? Am I the only one that feels that way? There is a lot that has happened in the past year, a global pandemic in case you haven't heard. Work disruptions, home disruptions, school disruptions, many have become sick, and some have died... Sometimes, when I focus on those things, I can become fearful. So, what am I...? What are we to do when that happens?

We are going to continue in the story that we started last time we were together. And as we look at what Paul goes through; I want you to put yourself in Paul's shoes. I want you to think about what he must have been feeling. I want you to notice how he maneuvers through the system and uses it for his advantage. Most of all I want you to notice that no matter what happens Paul always trust God, and in doing so even though he might be afraid he is Courageous.

Read: Acts 22:30 – 23:11

The Story:

Paul is released to the Sanhedrin 22:30

Paul Stirs up a hornet's nest 23:1 - 9

Paul Retrieved by the Romans 23:10

Paul has a vision 23:11

The Story Continues:

The plot to kill Paul 23:12-22

The move to Caesarea by night 23:23 – 23:35

Paul accused and stands before Felix 24:1 – 21

Paul in prison for 2 years 24:22-27

Acts 23:11 Paul has a vision of the Lord and the Lord tells him to have courage! How does a guy like Paul need to be reminded to have courage? If Paul needed to be reminded to have courage, how much more do we need to be reminded to have courage?

We can be Courageous Because Jesus is already Victorious!

Our Courage comes from the Lord

We are commanded to be strong and courageous

Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Our Courage relies on the Lord

Even Paul prayed for boldness to proclaim the Gospel

Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6:19

Our Courage is proved by the Lord

We can be courageous because we know He will not leave us

Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For the LORD your God is the one who will go with you; he will not leave you or abandon you. Deuteronomy 31:6

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

The Big Picture

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. 2 Timothy 1:7

We Can Be Courageous Because It Is Finished!

Final Note: When the work of Jesus was completed on the cross and he cried out "it is finished" He meant that the work of redemption was complete. Because of that we, who have put our faith in Jesus, can know that no matter what happens in this life, Jesus has already won and we have nothing to fear.