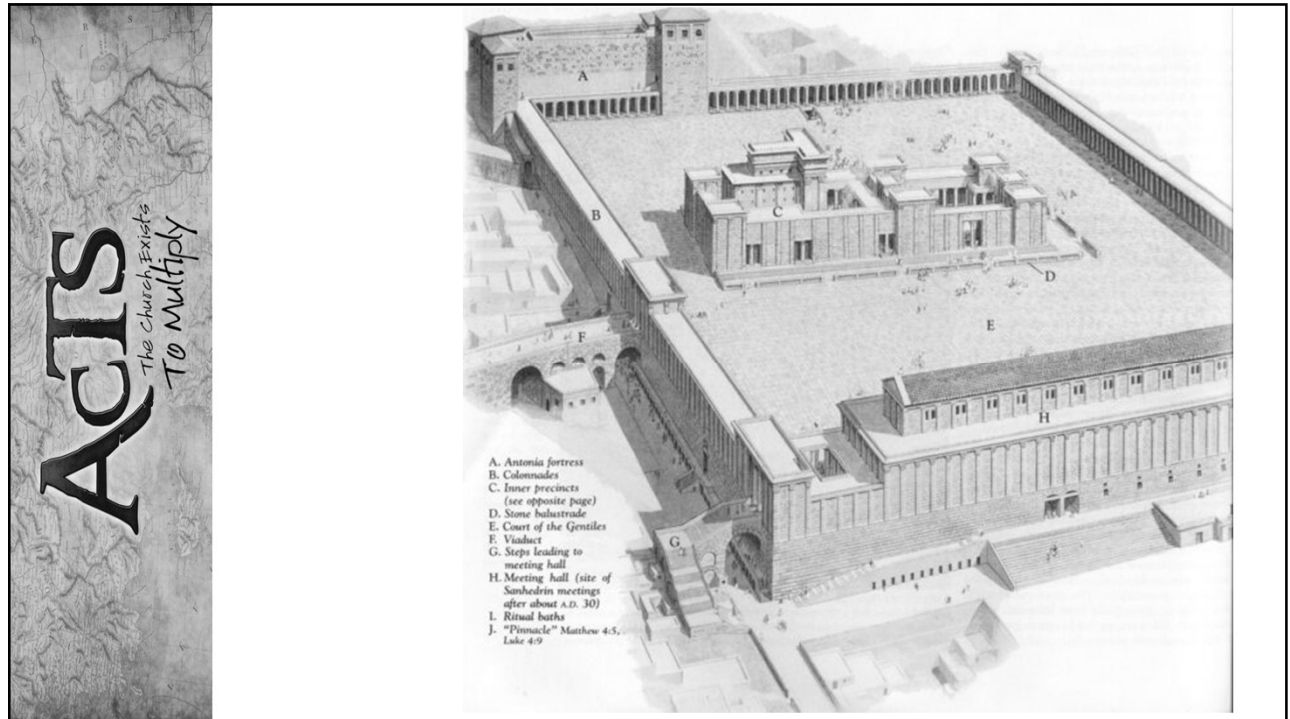



1



2




NAVIGATING PERSECUTION – Pt. 3

PAUL'S DEFENSE
An Escalated Start

Acts 23:1–3 (ESV) And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.”

3




NAVIGATING PERSECUTION – Pt. 3

PAUL'S DEFENSE
An Escalated Start

Acts 23:1–3 (ESV) . . . 2 And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?”


4



PAUL'S DEFENSE
 An Escalated Start
 A Settled Response

Acts 23:4-5 (ESV) Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" 5 And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"


5



PAUL'S DEFENSE
 An Escalated Start
 A Settled Response

Exodus 22:28 (ESV) "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people."


6



PAUL'S DEFENSE
PAUL'S OFFENSE
His Strategy

Acts 23:6–8 (ESV) Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.”


7



PAUL'S DEFENSE
PAUL'S OFFENSE
His Strategy

Acts 23:6–8 (ESV) . . . 7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.


8



PAUL'S OFFENSE
His Strategy
The Result

Acts 23:9–10 (ESV) Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"


9



PAUL'S OFFENSE
His Strategy
The Result

Acts 23:9–10 (ESV) . . . 10 And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.


10



PAUL'S OFFENSE
GOD SPEAKS TO PAUL

Acts 23:11 (ESV) The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."


11



APPLICATION
Review – Part 1 & 2

1. Be all Things to all People to Save Some
2. Don't Lose Sight of Your Authority
3. Pertinacity
4. Faith and Courage – No Fear


12



APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

13




APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

Summarized

- God is the ultimate authority.
- God delegates His authority to others.
- Our regard and response to delegated authority is our regard and response to God.

14




APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

Examples

- God strongly disciplines rebellion against His delegated authority.

15




APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

Examples

- God strongly disciplines rebellion against His delegated authority.
- God strongly disciplines leaders who misrepresent Him.

16




APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

Examples

- God strongly disciplines rebellion against His delegated authority.
- God strongly disciplines leaders who misrepresent Him.
- Appeals and disobedience to delegated authorities are godly responses to leaders' inappropriate actions and leadership.

17




APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

Examples

- God strongly disciplines those who rebel His delegated authority
- God strongly disciplines leaders who misrepresent Him.
- Appeals and disobedience to delegated authorities are godly responses to leaders' inappropriate actions and leadership.
- Honoring authority does not necessitate turning a blind eye to truth regarding the person in authority.

18




APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

Luke 13:31–32 (ESV) *At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 32 And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.*

19



APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority or Spiritual Government*

6. Operate in Godly Shrewdness

Definition of Shrewd:

1a: *marked by clever discerning, awareness, and hardheaded acumen.
shrewd common sense*

1b: *given to wily and artful ways or dealing
a shrewd operator*

2. *having or showing a practical cleverness or judgment*

20



APPLICATION

5. Honor Authority – *Spiritual Authority* or *Spiritual Government*
6. Operate in Godly Shrewdness
7. Depend on God's Direction