

True Freedom

June 23, 2024 | Acts 24:1-27

John Henschen, Lay Pastor

Paul on Trial

	Accusation	Defense
1	For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world (Acts 24:5a)	You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. (Acts 24:11-13)
2	[Paul] is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes (Acts 24:5b)	But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. (Acts 24:14-15)
3	He even tried to profane the temple (Acts 24:6)	Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia-- they out to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. (Acts 24:17-19)

Acts 1:8 | But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 9:15 | But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”

Acts 19:21 | Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”

Acts 23:11 | 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.”

Paul on Mission

Challenge: Context

Acts 17:1-2 - Paul shares in the Synagogue

Acts 17:17 - Paul shares in the Marketplace in Athens

Acts 17:30-31 - Paul shares in The Areopagus

Acts 22:8 - Paul shares with the crowd while being seized from the Temple

Acts 24:24 - Paul shares in prison with the Roman Governor Felix and his wife

Challenge: Contextualization

Acts 17:3 - Paul starts with the Scriptures in sharing to Jews

Acts 17:22-31 - Paul starts with the Creator in sharing with idol worshippers in Athens

Acts 24:25 - Paul starts with righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment - areas Felix was particularly known for failing at morally.

Promise: Power from the Spirit

Acts 1:8 | But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 16:7-11 | Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.

Promise: Freedom in Living on Mission

Big Idea: True Freedom is only found Living on Mission

Benediction:

2 Corinthians 12:15a | I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.