

Keep it PG  
Acts 22:22-30

### Dismissal of God's Servant (Spiritual Citizenship)

**22** And they gave him audience unto this word, and *then lifted up their voices*, and said, Away with such a *fellow* from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. **23** And as they cried out, and *cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air*, **24** The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and *bade that he should be examined by scourging*; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. **25** And *as they bound him with thongs*, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, *Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?* **26** *When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.* **27** Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, *Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.* **28** And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born. **29** *Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.* **30** On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from *his* bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.

### Fury Instead of Focus

- Luke 4:25-29 – **25** *But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; 26* *But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. 27* *And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian. 28* *And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29* *And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.*
- Acts 7:58 – *And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.*

### Fight Instead of Fair

- John 19:1 – *Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.*

### Fiction Instead of Fact

- Acts 16:36-37 – **36** *And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace. 37* *But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.*

### Fear Instead of Force

### Desecration of God's Servant (Spiritual Conflict-Humility)

**23:1** *And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. 2* *And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. 3* *Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the*

law? 4 And they that stood by said, *Revilest thou God's high priest?* 5 Then said Paul, *I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest:* for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

#### Christian Confidence

- 2 Corinthians 1:12 – For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

#### - Combative Command

#### Critical Counter-response

- Matthew 7:21 – *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

#### Concurred Correction

- Exodus 22:28 – Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 – All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

#### Divisive about God's Servant (Spiritual Conflict-Honor)

6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. 7 And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both. 9 And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God. 10 And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring *him* into the castle.

- Matthew 10:19 – *But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.*
- Luke 21:15 – *For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.*

#### Decisiveness of God's Servant (Spiritual Comfort)

11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, *Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*

#### Presence of the Lord

- Isaiah 43:2 – When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; Neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

#### Pleasure in the Lord

- Psalm 23:4 – Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

- Isaiah 41:10 – Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: Be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

#### Plans with the Lord

- 2 Timothy 4:16-18 – **16** At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge. **17** Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. **18** And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- Hebrews 13:5-6 – **5** *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. **6** So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.