



Main Passage:

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| 1. Acts 21:10–14 | 5. Acts 23:11 | 9. Romans 14 |
| 2. Acts 22:6–8 | 6. Acts 24 | 10. Romans 7 |
| 3. Acts 22:25–29 | 7. Acts 25 | 11. Ephesians 4:26 |
| 4. Acts 23:6–10 | 8. Acts 26:28–29 | 12. Philippians 2:5–11 |

ACT(ion)S: Week 11 – The Gospel on Trial

Text: Acts 21–26

Theme: Paul's trials reflect the Gospel under pressure—but with purpose. Jesus, once wrongly accused, rose again, and now empowers Paul (and us) to stand firm.

1. A Risen Savior, A Familiar Story (Easter Connection)

- Jesus was **wrongfully accused**, **tried**, and **crucified**, but He **rose again**.
- Paul, like Jesus, is also **put on trial**
- Easter isn't just about an empty tomb—it's about the **power to stand** even when everything seems against you.

2. Law & Order: Jerusalem Edition (Acts 21–26 Overview)

"In the justice system... these are their stories."

- **Groups at play:**
 - Paul and his fellow believers
 - The accusers (religious leaders)
 - The Roman officials (law, justice, and protection)
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3. Paul's Arrest & Prophetic Warning (Acts 21)

- Agabus prophesies Paul's arrest (21:10–14).
 - Paul's resolve: *"I am ready... to die for the Lord Jesus."*
 - Application: Are we willing to walk in obedience, even when it costs?
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4. Paul Testifies (Acts 22)

- Paul speaks in **Hebrew**—relating to his audience.
- Shares his **testimony** and **encounter with Jesus**:

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"
"I am Jesus of Nazareth."
- The crowd explodes at the mention of Gentiles.
- Paul uses **Roman citizenship** to protect himself.

5. On Trial – Before the Sanhedrin (Acts 23)

- Paul appeals to **resurrection**, causing division.
- **Jesus appears**: *"Take courage... you must testify in Rome."* (23:11)
- Plot to kill Paul is uncovered—God protects him.

6. Felix, Festus, and Agrippa (Acts 24–26)

- Paul is on trial for years—**not guilty**, but never released.
- He speaks boldly before rulers:
 - **Felix** delays justice (24)
 - **Festus** is confused (25)
 - **Agrippa** is almost convinced (26)

“Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?”

- Application: When we share our faith, **some will mock, some will delay, some will walk away**—but we still plant seeds.

7. Threads of the Gospel (Reflection & Application)

- Paul’s story reflects Jesus’ journey to the cross.
- Paul stands not in **his strength**, but in **resurrection power**.
- We may be accused, misunderstood, or even mistreated—but our mission is to testify to Jesus.

8. Lessons for the Church

- Paul Went to Jerusalem despite knowing the outcome
- Arrested and threatened to be killed by jealous leaders
- Instead of remaining silent, Paul decided to speak in his own defense
- When this wasn’t working, he made sure his Identity as a Roman was recognized.

9. Tie-In Verses (Paul’s Letters in Context)

- *Romans 14*: “Don’t be a stumbling block.”
- *Romans 7*: “I don’t do what I want, but what I hate.”
- *Ephesians 4*: “Be angry and do not sin.”
- *Philippians 2*: “Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus...”
“He humbled Himself... even to death on a cross.”