

Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" [They] all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" (Matthew 27:22 NKJV)

Every adult eventually has to answer, "What shall I do with Jesus?"

Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator [named] Tertullus. These gave evidence to the governor against Paul. (Acts 24:1 NKJV)

If you have to flatter, exaggerate, or pressure to win, you're not walking in the Spirit.

And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying: "Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight, "we accept [it] always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness. "Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us. (Acts 24:2-4 NKJV)

Gospel people don't traffic in spin; we traffic in light.

"For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. "He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law. "But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took [him] out of our hands, "commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him." And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so. (Acts 24:5-9 NKJV)

Satan can't stop resurrection power, so he smears those who carry it.

Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: "Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, (Acts 24:10 NKJV)

The Facts

"because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. "And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. "Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me. (Acts 24:11-13 NKJV)

Confession and Hope

"But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of [the] dead, both of [the] just and [the] unjust. "This [being] so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. (Acts 24:14-16 NKJV)

Every day leans into forever. Resurrection hope makes holiness normal, not weird.

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; (Philippians 2:12 NKJV)

Sanctification is not self-improvement; it's Spirit-empowered transformation, day by day, choice by choice.

"Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, "in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. "They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. (Acts 24:17-19 NKJV)

Fear thrives in darkness; integrity can handle the light.

"Or else let those who are [here] themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, "unless [it is] for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.' " (Acts 24:20-21 NKJV)

The gospel always comes back to: Is Jesus alive?

But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of [the] Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let [him] have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. (Acts 24:22-23 NKJV)

Indecision about Jesus is a decision about Jesus.

And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (Acts 24:24-25 NKJV)

Salvation rarely comes wrapped in convenience.

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV)

If the Spirit is dealing with you, the most dangerous word in your vocabulary is "later."

Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. (Acts 24:26 NKJV)

You can't preach grace with your lips and purchase your outcomes with your wallet.

But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound. (Acts 24:27 NKJV)

When God seems silent, He's not absent.

He's shaping the thing He's shaping you for.

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked [man] rules, the people groan. (Proverbs 29:2 NKJV)

The king's heart [is] in the hand of the LORD, [Like] the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. (Proverbs 21:1 NKJV)

If God can steer rivers, He can steer rulers.

Now when Festus had come to the province, after three days he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem. Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him, asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem--while [they] lay in ambush along the road to kill him. But Festus answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was going [there] shortly. "Therefore," he said, "let those who have authority among you go down with [me] and accuse this man, to see if there is any fault in him." (Acts 25:1-5 NKJV)

Don't be surprised when former circles resent your grace story.

You don't have to see the whole plan to trust the Planner.

And when he had remained among them more than ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day, sitting on the judgment seat, he commanded Paul to be brought. When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove, while he answered for himself, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all." (Acts 25:6-8 NKJV)

When your identity rests in Christ's righteousness, you don't grasp for vindication; you bear witness to truth.

But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?" (Acts 25:9 NKJV)

A Bold Appeal

So Paul said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. "For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar." (Acts 25:10-11 NKJV)

Unnecessary martyrdom isn't faith; it's presumption.

Let the Spirit pry your fingers off the idol of preference so you can grab the plow of purpose.

Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, "You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!" (Acts 25:12 NKJV)

Back to that pivotal question: **What will you do with Jesus?**

Pilate asked it. Felix heard it. Paul declared it. And today, you must answer it.

"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39 NKJV)