

Acts

PASTOR STEVE STEELE
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OF THE APOSTLES



Courtroom Drama - Acts 22:30 - 26:32

Face the _____.

“ ³⁰ The next day the commander ordered the leading priests into session with the Jewish high council. He wanted to find out what the trouble was all about, so he released Paul to have him stand before them.”

~ ACTS 22:30 (NLT)

Give _____.

“ ¹⁰ The governor then motioned for Paul to speak. Paul said, ‘I know, sir, that you have been a judge of Jewish affairs for many years, so I gladly present my defense before you. ¹¹ You can quickly discover that I arrived in Jerusalem no more than twelve days ago to worship at the Temple. ¹² My accusers never found me arguing with anyone in the Temple, nor stirring up a riot in any synagogue or on the streets of the city. ¹³ These men cannot prove the things they accuse me of doing.’

¹⁴ ‘But I admit that I follow the Way, which they call a cult. I worship the God of our ancestors, and I firmly believe the Jewish law and everything written in the prophets. ¹⁵ I have the same hope in God that these men have, that he will raise both the righteous and the unrighteous. ¹⁶ Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people.’”

~ ACTS 24:10-16 (NLT)

Appeal to a _____.

_____ (Acts 23:1-10)

Before _____ . (Acts 24:1-27)

Before _____ . (Acts 25:1-22)

Before _____ . (Acts 25:23 - 26:32)

“ ¹⁵ But the Lord said, ‘Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.’”

~ ACTS 9:15 (NLT)

Almost _____.

“ ²⁰ ‘I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God - and prove they have changed by the good things they do. ²¹ Some Jews arrested me in the Temple for preaching this, and they tried to kill me. ²² But God has protected me right up to this present time so I can testify to everyone, from the least to the greatest. I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen - ²³ that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God’s light to Jews and Gentiles alike.’

²⁴ Suddenly, Festus shouted, ‘Paul, you are insane. Too much study has made you crazy!’

²⁵ But Paul replied, ‘I am not insane, Most Excellent Festus. What I am saying is the sober truth. ²⁶ And King Agrippa knows about these things. I speak boldly, for I am sure these events are all familiar to him, for they were not done in a corner! ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do - ’

SCRIPTURE CONTINUES »

“ ²⁸ Agrippa interrupted him. ‘Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?’

²⁹ Paul replied, ‘Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.’

³⁰ Then the king, the governor, Bernice, and all the others stood and left. ³¹ As they went out, they talked it over and agreed, ‘This man hasn’t done anything to deserve death or imprisonment.’”

~ ACTS 26:20-30 (NLT)

“ ¹⁰ Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian.’”

~ ACTS 26:28 (NKJV)

So What?

“ ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” ~ ROMANS 6:23 (NLT)

The _____ has been _____, your _____ has been _____.

“ ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. ⁵ For I was born a sinner - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. ⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.

⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me - now let me rejoice. ⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. ¹³ Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. ¹⁴ Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. ¹⁵ Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.

¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.”

~ PSALMS 51:1-17 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *now on the APP* |     

- 1 - If you had to work in a courtroom would you rather be a judge, a prosecutor or a defense attorney? Why?
- 2 - Read Acts 23:1-10. Things keep going from bad to worse for Paul. When things keep getting worse in your life, where do you go looking for God? In what ways has God been faithful to you in tough times?
- 3 - Read Acts 24:14-16. When and where do you tend to shy away from owning your faith? Where is it easy to freely admit it? Why?

- 4 - Read Acts 24:24-27. Paul spent 2 years in custody sharing his faith with Felix and Drucilla. Who is someone you have been sharing your faith with for a long time? Why do you think some people take a long time to decide about their faith?
- 5 - Read Acts 26:28. King Agrippa was almost persuaded by Paul. What was the key to you crossing the line of faith in your life? How does your experience help persuade others?
- 6 - What changed in you when you met Jesus? In what ways is Jesus still changing you?

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