

08/03/2025

Side note – really consider this. He's just launched into ministry and the whole world hates him.

Why didn't he consider friendship evangelism? Or something not so blatant in their face?

Isn't it God's will to be nice and soft about everything to people?

Jude 23: 22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; ²³ save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

'snatching' = harpazo – it is to pluck out by force e.g. John 10:28-9 I give eternal....

2nd coming in 1 Thes 4 we butchered as free 50yd line pre tribulation rapture so there are 3 comings of Jesus.

Back to Paul -

- so here's Paul, a powerful man in whom the Spirit of God dwells.
- Moses was also a powerful man of God, confronted Pharaoh.
 - Look at all the miracles at his hands.
 - Imagine his resume

Why didn't Paul confront the Arabian king and governor and perform some miracle?

No. v33 says what he did, he couldn't handle any of them

They lower him down in a basket.

The word for basket here – sarganē – is a rope basket, not just a reed basket or straw basket, but a rope basket.

You'd take rope and just wrap into a basket form and somehow tie it all together.

What??

Wait, This is embarrassing... This is Paul –

- healed the sick
- cast out demons
- wrote most of the NT
- shook off a deadly snake
- saved a ship load of men
- made trip to Heaven – who can stand up against this??

So his resume of intimidating accomplishments are so far:

- his suffering
- his sympathy – not common to leaders
- his powerlessness to the politic of the day

If I'm going to brag, it will be about my weakness.

Just earlier:

2 Cor 1: ⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

Or 2 Cor 2: ¹² Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³ I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.

- He had an opportunity but was so stressed out he couldn't take it.
- These speak to weakness in just this letter and there are others

How does this contrast to today's mega TV evangelists & leaders?

How does our culture teach us to do opposite Scripture?

Now he goes out of his way to say, "I swear to God!" - He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying

- Then he makes the subsequent statement.
- His point is to assert his superiority to the fakers.
- Then he says "I swear to God, what I'm gonna tell you next is true"

If you had said something like that, what would be the type of expected story? probably something self-aggrandizing

- His grand finale is nothing less than an anti-climactic humiliating account of escape
 - Similar to the business motto, "we may not be very good, but we sure are slow!"
- No alpha male greek or roman man would brag of such escape
- Would seem weak; even cowardice. Would have preferred a brave or outsmarting escape
- Plus the fact that a basket meant to be hand-carried w/ fish or vegetables was what fit "little Paul's" small frame.