

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #24 -Maintaining Integrity

Scripture Reading: Acts 25:7-12

Introduction:

1. Our example before men carries with it a lot of weight to promote the gospel! -1Ti 4:12
2. Paul maintained his integrity throughout all the adversity that tried to destroy him.
3. We maintain our integrity by having...

I. FAVOR WITH MAN

A. THE APOSTLE PAUL

1. Festus went to Jerusalem -25:1-6
 - a. He met with the high priest to discuss Paul
 - b. They petitioned to have Paul brought to Jerusalem; this was rightly denied.
 - i. Festus has them to bring the men of authority to testify against Paul
 - ii. This is opposed to the one like Tertullus who was a lawyer that worked in the Roman courts. It is not known whether he was a Jew or Gentile.
2. Trial in Caesarea -25:7-12
 - a. The Jews could not prove any of the accusations they made against Paul
 - b. Paul violated nothing with the Jews or the Romans -vs. 8
 - c. Festus proposed sending him to Jerusalem to stand before him there
 - i. Paul refused. If he could not receive a fair trial in Caesarea, he certainly would not receive a fair trial in Jerusalem.
 - ii. Remember that Jesus assured Paul he would testify of Him in Rome -23:11
 - d. Paul was not opposed to dying provided that is was for just reasoning
 - e. Paul appealed to Caesar. At this time Caesar was Nero.

B. WE WORK WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF OUR LAWS

1. We need to stay informed of current events that shape our lives
2. We should let our voices be heard

II. FAVOR WITH GOD

A. THE APOSTLE PAUL

1. King Agrippa and Bernice come to Caesarea.
2. Festus briefs Agrippa concerning Paul.
 - a. The Jews desired judgment to be brought against Paul
 - b. Festus states that the accused must be heard first -25:16
 - c. The closest to an accusation is that Paul affirmed Jesus to be alive -vs. 19
3. Paul comes before King Agrippa -25:23-27
 - a. There is a great pomp
 - b. Festus states that here is Paul. He is the one of whom it was said, "He is not fit to live any longer!" -vs. 24
 - c. In spite of this, there was nothing found worthy of death in Paul.
 - d. Festus wants King Agrippa to hear Paul's testimony so he will have something to write to Caesar concerning Paul coming before him -vs. 26

B. OUR LIVING BEFORE THE WORLD

1. We should strive to live above reproach
 - a. When we are accused, nothing evil can be said against us -1Pe 2:11, 12
 - b. We should not be ashamed to suffer as a Christian -1Pe 4:14-16
 - c. We are lights within the crooked and perverse generation -Ac 2:40; Ph 2:15
2. Remember, we will have to endure trials and tribulations
 - a. Those who desire to live godly -2Ti 3:12
 - b. You will be hated by all for the sake of Christ -Mt 10:22
 - c. The world hates you because they hated Christ first -Jn 15:18-20

Conclusion:

1. Paul left us a great example of living above reproach, standing for what is right, and declaring the message of God even when it was not popular.
2. When we follow suit, we will not only save ourselves, but others who hear us -1Ti 4:16