

THE ACTS

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 23:12-35

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM - 217

TITLE:

WHERE'S GOD WHEN YOU NEED HIM
BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD

THEME:

Acts 1:8

*"But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **"you shall be witnesses to Me"** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the **end of the earth.**"*

G. Campbell-Morgan said that the correct title of this book should be: "The Acts of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of the Believers in the world today"

The Events of Paul's Life,
in this Text, is an Example for Us to Learn from

This is a difficult portion to teach on because there is no mention of God, or a message being preached, no mention of a healing or a conversion!

The Bible says of itself that...

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, :17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

A little boy read a bumper sticker on the car in front of him that read...
I Found God - mom, I didn't know God was lost

John 20

"Thomas had stated "I will not believe unless I see Him...
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Truth of the Matter is
Seeing is not believing, but believing is seeing

Paul said in Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written *for our learning*, that we through the patience (cheerful endurance) and comfort of the Scriptures *might have hope*.

What we have in the example of S(P)aul life, I want to suggest that is exactly where you & I are at today as Christians

The Teaching Here is; That God gives Providential care to His people

Webster's Definition of Providence (1. Care or preparation in advance with foresight.
2. Prudent management. 3. The care, guardianship, and control exercised by God.
4. Providence, God!

Providential care is;
"the unseen intervention of God in the affairs of men"

There are times in

all of our Christian lives that it's difficult to pray, it's hard to read the word.... we feel like giving up and shutting down!

Let's Be Encouraged Here...

1.) The World will Always be on the Attack vv. 12-15

The -No Deal - No Meal- Deal

_____ The Meal Deal _____

Another Radical Diet Program

* **Banded** GRK 4963 *sustrophe* (soos-trof-ay')
to twisting together like a rope or snakes

* **Bound** GRK 332 *anathematizo* (an-ath-em-at-id'-zo)
to obligate God to curse, to place yourself under penalty - to anathema
- or condemn oneself, a death wish

The World will always be Fanatical & Radical
in its Protest of Christianity

Verse 13-15

The World is Blind Today, Unable to See Truth

2 Corinthians 4:4

whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Our Land Purchase;

"We'll fight to the end to stop this from happening

Romans 1:18-19

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, :19 since what may be known about God is clear & plain to them, because God has made it clear & plain to them.

2.) The Lord will always behind the Scene

vv. 16-22

Paul's sister's boy - Paul's nephew was there

What A Coincidence !!!

The Jews say that the word 'Coincidence'
is not a Kosher word

Nothing in your life has been, is now,
or ever will be... a coincidence !

Not Behind the Scenes

as in Hiding or Hidden

but

Behind The Scenes

as in orchestrating ~ Conducting ~ Arranging

Listen - God may be behind the scenes,
but He's moving all the scenes that He's behind

God's Providence is,
"When God is at work the most
and we are aware of His presence the least"

Paul's Reaction:

"WHERE'S GOD WHEN YOU NEED HIM"

"Is Dis Da Way You treat your servants"

Note This;

Paul could have cried out... "God where are you?"

Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon
and yelled down in to it... NOTHING!

Paul could have come to the grand canyon of his ministry and yelled
"God where are you?"...

But The Response to the Christian isn't "He's
No-where" but "He's Now-Here!"

Since June 22, 1977 (the day I met Jesus) I have never felt lonely even when I've been alone

Paul could rest in the fact that the answer was not "No-Where but Now-Here !

Theology 1A -

these things are true if you believe them are not

- God is never more near - than when we don't feel His presence
- He is never closer - than when we feel so far away from Him
- He is never more at work - than when it seems that He's nowhere to be found

Jesus Said;

"Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. :33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

* **Peace GRK 1515 eirene (i-ray'-nay);**

quietness,-rest,

* **Tribulation GRK 2347 thlipsis (thlip'-sis)**

pressure , anguish and burdens... troubles

But Jack I'm Scared

(remember the Waltons - good night john-boy)

well at night in our house it's "@#%\$#&%(^ " then "&^\$^&%"sometimes one of the girls 20 minutes later might call out good night - sweet dreams then wait for a response....*

Looking for Reassurance

Our Room is next door - but to a frightened heart it feels a mile away

2 Timothy 3:11

what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Jesus Promised...

John 14

:16 I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever... :18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:27

"My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie"

Jesus will Never Fail You Ever

Especially when you're Feeling Failed & Abandoned

look for Him in what's happening with you now
but what if you're not hearing anything - Jack?

#1 Quietly be still

#2 Carefully continue on course

God is Bringing His Plan to Pass in your life

He has been - He is - He is going to;

Every Christian Should Have an
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
Sign Hanging about their necks

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

True Story; *While the Battle of Waterloo was being fought, all England waited breathlessly for news. At last the message came slowly across the channel. "Wellington defeated..." had just been spelled out when a sudden blanket of fog obscured the signals. News of the disaster quickly spread, and the deepest gloom settled on England. Then the message was completed: "Wellington defeated the enemy!" Sorrow was quickly turned into great rejoicing.*

Jesus has Fought and Has Won the War

God's Providential Care (invisible Intervention)

**Finding our house & moving to Chino Hills
... let's move. the money, the job, the steps**

(we just want to do what He wants to do... it's easy)

3.) The Believer will Always be Protected

vv. 23-35

Jack how can you say that the Christians last year in Africa were protected when they were forced into their church and then fired alive

Jack how can you say that the Christians who are financially hurting and losing their homes & cars are protected by the Lord

Jack how can you say that I'm under His care when the doctor just told me I have cancer or that I'm losing my baby

Verse 16

- God has His nephews in place always
- God has His centurions in place always
- God has His commanders in place always
- God has His two hundred centurions in place always
- God has His seventy horsemen in place always
- God has His two hundred spearmen in place always

armed soldiers, with 200 spears & 70 horses... & 1 Paul
470 to escort 1

470 man armed convoy

if you had taken a oath not to eat until Paul was dead
and you're looking at this army protecting Paul and taking him away... your hunger pains are beginning to get intense

- a.) Protected Against the Worldly Past
- b.) Protected Against the Worldly Present
- c.) Protected Against the Worldly Future

Dionne Warrick 1-900-psychic hot-line

"DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSE"

SHE'LL TELL YOU HOW TO FIND YOURSELF...

SHE CAN'T EVEN FIND SAN JOSE - HOW CAN SHE TELL ME HOW TO FIND MYSELF

Jesus said;

Don't find yourself - you won't like what you see - *jack version*

Matthew 10:39

"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 16:25

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

The Eagles Care

The eagle, according to naturalists, has a most tender affection for her young and shows it in a very peculiar manner. When she thinks them strong enough to fly, she disturbs their nest, breaking it up, and making it so disagreeable for them that they must soon leave it. She will flutter over them and show them how to fly in

order to encourage them to try their own wings. If she fails in this, she will then spread her wings, take her young ones on them, and soar aloft. Then suddenly gliding from beneath them, she will leave them for the moment to their own resources. But if they are unable to bear themselves up, she will dart beneath them, receive them again on her own wings, and bring them back in safety to the rock on which the nest was built. Again, she'll put thorns and briars in the nest, She'll begin to upset the comfortable spots Then she'll force them to the edge of the nest on the windiest of days to put them out. - Is. 40:31.

Ephesians 1:11

...being predestined according to the purposes of Him... who works all things out according to the counsel of His will! - **the script has been written for us, we need to read it and do it!**

Verse 24

A former Slave & Thief-Cat Burglar
Felix the Cat

PAUL WAS KEPT UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN HEROD'S PALACE.

it was filled with all the comforts that the Roman Empire could afford,
It was on the Mediterranean beach & and food, lots of food!!!

(2 Year Vacation at the first Club Med)

Check out verse 12 one more time and tell me if God isn't good!

What Does all this mean to us personally ?

- #1 He loves me enough to be caring about me now
- #2 God is always watching, always knowing, always present
- #3 I need to remember that in my daily living
- #4 I can now have this peace in whatever is happening in my life

**Moses, Tell them that "I AM that I AM" has sent you
what kind of a name is that... I AM, I AM who?
(I AM whatever they have need of) - that's I AM who!**

I am hungry

John 6:48

I am that bread of life.

I can't find my way

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "***I am the light of the world.*** He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

I'm confused

John 10:9

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

No one cares for me

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

I'm insecure and afraid

John 10:36

'I am the Son of God'

I'm dead on the inside

John 11:25

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

I'm lost

John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

I'm alone

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

But Jack I can never remember all that...
That's O.K.

Psalm 106:45

He remembered His covenant for them...