

THE ACTS
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 25:1-12

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM - 220

TITLE:

AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL
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.**“*

There's a story of a little boy who set sail his model boat on a pond but the wind began to push that boat out of reach until he called for help! Just then a young man came along and began to throw rocks near his model boat, panicking the little boy. With every toss of a rock the little boy noticed that the boat was getting closer and closer to him. The rocks being thrown just ahead of the boat created waves, waves that brought that little boat right to shore!

Paul's in the Midst of a turbulent sea
on board the vessel Hardship...

where was the Lord ? Had Paul done something wrong ?
was His ministry over & had an angel forgotten
to tell him something?

NO !

Paul Loved the Lord - The Lord loved Paul. His Confidence was in Jesus

1 Peter 2:25

Peter tells us that Jesus is The Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Paul had been given a shot earlier;

Acts 23:11

But the Lord stood by Paul and said, "Be of good cheer; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness of me at Rome."

Last Week;

"COMPROMISE, MAN'S EASY FIX"

24:27 to 25:1 is a two year period

In the Midst of all this "What was Paul's Anchor for His Soul ?"

I.) *The Undeniable Truth* (t) vv. 1-6

Verse 1-3

Festus enters the dilemma and is the new kid on the block... a well liked ruler, he's 70 Ys. old. He will die two Ys. into his office.

If Felix's Life is an Example
to us of chronic procrastinator and compromiser...

Then Festus, was a man of an opposite nature

A well educated man, a university grad. he had a degree in Philosophy, he was influential, having the power, position and resources to make a change.

- If Felix was a cat - always waiting for that special moment
- Then Festus was like a Stallion, - charging ahead and creating his own opportunities
- He makes a wise decision to go to Jerusalem!

Jerusalem was historic for being a turbulent city UPRISINGS

Verse 2

a. The Message of Jesus is Responsible for all this

God was Maneuvering Paul along the way... Rome

Often we have gone to Russia to reach out to the streets
while our Russian translators get converted while giving out the message of Jesus

b. The Dangers of Man-made Religion

Verse 3

The Antics of Religion

* **To Murder** (this is not Judaism - it's humanism)

Bob Dylan sang the song

"Got to Serve Somebody - It might be the devil, it might be the Lord"

Within Every Man is a desire to Experience God or gods

THAT WHICH A PERSON CHOOSES TO MAKE AS HIS OR HER GOD...
...WILL FORM HOW THEY LIVE IN THE WORLD AROUND THEM

Example

If their god be the god of pleasure.....	humanism
If their god be the god of entertainment.....	imagination, fantasies...
If their god be the god of power.....	murder, war,....
If their god be the god of wealth.....	indulgence, excess
If their god be the god of self.....	exaltation, man the god

Psalm 115:4-8

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. :5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; :6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; :7 They have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. :8 Those who make them are like them; - so is everyone who trusts in idols

In Contrast

1 Timothy 3:15

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in **the house of God**, which is **the church of the living God**, the **pillar and ground of the truth**.

Ephesians 2:1-2

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, :2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Religion without God can be Murder!

Verse 4

Festus would normally have forwarded the case to Jerusalem...
This is God's Providential Care Again !

Verse 5-6

In the Midst of all this "What was Paul's Anchor for His Soul ?"

2.) *He was Serving the Risen Lord*

vv. 7-8

Verse 7

- * **Stood about** GRK to encircle, to surround a prey or a victim
- * **Laid** GRK to stack a shelf or load up a cart

Verse 8

a. God Desires us to Know our Position & Calling

**You Really need to Know you're called when
things like this happen**

What was Paul's motive for serving the Lord ?
Appreciation - Obedience - Loyalty - Commitment - Calling

Acts 9:6

So he, trembling and astonished, said, "**Lord, *what do You want me to do?***" And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Jesus Has Promised Us...

Luke 12:11-12

"Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. :12 "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

There's a Strange Reality for the Christian (in GOing)

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, :20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age." Amen. - then He ascends up into heaven and leaves them - or does He ?

b. He had Life Assurance

God provides for us Eternal - life insurance
but also Present day - life assurance

- LIFE INSURANCE = OUR destiny IS SETTLED
- LIFE ASSURANCE = OUR PRESENT SITUATION IS SETTLED

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God **in your body and in your spirit**, which are God's.

the things we do - the things we think
the things we say - the things that drive us
are they things glorifying to God ?

Paul had a warranty on his life
- a guarantee for his life

King David Knew About This;

Psalms 37:25

I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken,

Isn't it sad that youth is wasted on young people !
the energy they spend on fun - I need for just living

Time reveals the faithfulness of God to us...

He was there - He is here - and He will be in the future

Psalm 139:7

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?...

:8 behold, thou art there!

In the Midst of all this "What was Paul's Anchor for His Soul ?"

3.) *The "Message" He Proclaimed*

vv. 9-12

Verse 9

a. A Man Without The Message Has no True Anchor

Felix and Festus

had one thing in common

The Fear of Other Men

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Unredeemed men are all alike in one area - the fear of man

James 1:8

he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Matthew 10:28

"And do not be in awe those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather be in awe of Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- will men accept me ? sometimes
- will men reject me ? sometimes
- will they like me ? sometimes
- will they hate me ? sometimes

Luke 6:26

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

It's Human Nature to Desire acceptance, to be received, & to be acknowledged.

BUT FIRST FIND YOUR ACCEPTANCE IN GOD, THROUGH CHRIST

God's Opinion of You Never Changes

even before you were born - god though you were pretty cute

Ephesians 1:6

it's all of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

(The Hubbell)

Verse 10

b. Jesus' Message was Paul's Vision

Why Did They Want Paul In Jerusalem ?

#1 because these religionists had successfully polluted the minds & hearts of the people in Jerusalem.

#2 they would ambush the escort and kill Paul before he could arrive in Jerusalem

c. God Foreordained Paul's Citizenship

JUST FOR THAT DAY

there are events happening in our lives daily that have in God's eternal mind

in The Crisis Hour

Jesus in His Hour of Betrayal corrected Peter for Defending Him.

"Escape or Fulfillment"

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Romans 8:33-39

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. :34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. :35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?..... :37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. :38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, :39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 118:5-6

I called on the LORD in my distress; the LORD answered me and set me in a **broad place (large, spacious, relaxing)** :6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

PAUL SAW HIMSELF AS PROPERTY OF HEAVEN

Owned and Operated by God

c. abandoned, but not alone

John	<i>sent to Patmos - angel is sent to him with the Revelation of Jesus Christ!</i>
Elijah	<i>hiding in a cave, alone- God comes and speaks to him softly</i>
Daniel	<i>taking a stand against the political tide of Babylon - God came to him</i>
Jeremiah	<i>Mocked, rejected and brokenhearted - God Fills his heart with assurance</i>
Isaiah	<i>saw an empty throne on earth - But God filling the throne in Heaven</i>
Paul	<i>on trial with no visible help - But God was watching that courtroom</i>

Romans 13:1-4

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. :2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. :3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is right, and you will have praise from the same. :4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid of him; for he does not bear the sword (ball-point pen) in vain; for he is God's minister - an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

PROMOTION - GOD'S WAY

with every attack mounted against Paul... it resulted in a promotion to a higher court of rule... ..until the very thing that the religionists were fighting against, they helped fulfill.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD.

Ephesians 6:16

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the **fiery darts** of the wicked one.

* **Fiery GRK 4448 puroo (poo-ro'-o)**

from the root "Pur" - lightning flash. to kindle with, it ignite with,
(anger, grief, lust, fear, hate, envy)

* **Dart GRK 956 belos (bel'-os)**

a missile, a spear or an arrow built to pierce through

I appeal to Caesar !

this the first step on the roman road

God's Plan is coming to pass just as He has commanded...

It's true - Jesus had to die on a bloody cross
But it's also true that three days later there'd be an empty
tomb !

2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Verse 12

Appealing to Caesar would take Paul directly to Rome!

Paul didn't see Caesar on the throne in Rome
- he saw God on the Throne in heaven
God is always on the throne !!!

INTERJECT - GOD !

The Empire that Bludgeoned the world into submission
- **was now Paul's source of protection and his purpose for ministry**

Revelation 19:6

And I heard, as it were, a great multitude saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

- In Your sickness; "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!
- In your Poverty; "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!
- In your Pain; "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!
- In Loneliness; "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

**"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD,
#1 - thoughts of peace and not of evil, #2 - to give you a future and a hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJ)**

#1 - a powerful - deep rest of soul #2 - the anticipation of good things to come

Can You say that...

"For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" in your life ?