



**Day 21: February 4**  
**Read Acts 23:1-35**

**TEACHABLE**

*But Paul said to him, "God will slap you, you whitewashed wall! What kind of judge are you to break the law yourself by ordering me struck like that?" Acts 23:3*

What an unbelievable situation! A genuine apostle of God *was ready to teach the people, ready and willing*. Yet, these leaders could only see an attack on their position and status. Throughout today's chapter we see religious and civil authorities misusing their knowledge to attack God's message. The high council uses the "Law" to have Paul beaten, religious zealots bind themselves by a holy oath to kill him, the Roman commander manipulates the facts to make himself look good, and the Governor misuses the law to have Paul conveniently put away. All of these leaders miss the chance to hear God's message while "power playing" the situation. Do we ever do this? Do we try to suppress a message we're uncomfortable with? God can use the young and the powerless to transmit his message. We must strive to keep the balance of staying "teachable" to a fresh move of God while also remaining guarded against unscriptural ideas. In today's chapter, many people missed God because Paul's words seemed too different. While we must continually measure any new teaching against the Bible's standards, we must not -- in the process of being careful -- throw out new ways of meeting God simply because they don't line up with our methods and traditions.

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**Prayer Focus:** Lord, make me open yet discerning in seeking fresh ways to meet you.



**Day 22: February 5**  
**Read Acts 24:1-27**

**PROOF**

*When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: "I know that for a number of years you have been judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense." Acts 24:10*

Have you ever had to defend yourself? Often times in a Christian life you will be under accusations. Satan is the great accuser. Sometimes the accusations are a result of bad decisions or actions. But even when one is wholly innocent, even being accused can make one feel guilty. In Acts 24, Paul is brought to trial before Felix. He is accused of inciting crowds and stirring up trouble in the nearby synagogues and cities. Paul is happy to answer for himself, knowing that the facts of the case are in his favor. His accuser could not prove the charges and had no witnesses. Paul lives a transparent life. "I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man." Acts 24:16. His daily outward interactions in his public life and private life are reflective of his inner relationship with God. Because of this he is able to stand guiltless before his accusers and gladly proclaim, "Prove it."

Can the same be said of each of us? Does your public and private life reflect your relationship with God?

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**Prayer Focus:** Pray that God will help you to identify areas in your life that aren't blameless. Pray for action steps to address these areas so that we too can have a clean conscience before God and man.



**Day 23: February 6**  
**Read Acts 25:1-27**

**FAULTLESS**

*I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. Acts 25:10-11*

Accusation is cheap; incrimination is expensive. Paul knew all too well the attack of those who were trying to discredit his ministry. His unswerving commitment to the call of God on his life is a strong example to follow. Throughout Paul's ministry, those who were constantly attacking Paul often brought his past up in the present. Though Paul had been extremely misguided in the past, God's grace redirected Paul to a new course and he had pursued God's will in his life with even greater fervor. Nonetheless, those who felt threatened by Paul's ministry sought any opportunity to prevent his success. Paul never lost his focus nor was he ever truly found guilty. His commitment to God's plan for his life and his resolve in the face of opposition provides encouragement and an example to emulate.

To whom do you more closely relate? To Paul – faithfully pursuing the call of God on your life despite opposition; or to his accusers - consistently providing challenge to those fervently following God's plan? As our church moves forward in faith to accomplish, with His power, the plans God has for us, Paul's testimony of innocent pursuit of the Kingdom is a call to action for us modern day believers. May God find us more as a solution than the opposition.

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**Prayer Focus:** Thank God for Paul's resolve to remain upright and true to God's calling. Seek God's perspective as you encourage and support those serving in ministry in our leadership and membership. Ask God for direction and perseverance as you seek to fulfill His calling on your life



**Day 24: February 7**  
**Read Acts 26:1-32**

**VISION**

*"And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven. 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." Acts 26:19-20*

Not only at the beginning, but all the way through life, God sends us visions to guide us. Every time we see in a verse of the Scripture a glimpse of something beautiful, it is a heavenly vision given to us to lead us to the beauty it shows. Every beautiful thing we see in life is a heavenly vision sent to focus our thoughts upward. Wherever we see beauty that attracts us and builds in us desires and aspirations for growing to love Jesus, it is a vision from God. His mission is to call us to a life closer to Him. We should not prove disobedient to any heavenly vision, but should follow every one as an angel sent from heaven to draw us nearer to God.

It is how every true artist works. He dreams and sees visions, and then seeks to put on canvas his dreams and visions. Every great and noble thing anyone does is first a vision in his soul to which he surrenders himself. All Paul's life was a struggle toward the realization of the vision that he saw at Damascus. "One thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." He saw ever before him the vision of the perfect character of Christ, and gave all of the energy of his life to realize it in himself. So should we all do. As the apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa, he told how Jesus had transformed his life, and Agrippa was deeply moved by what he heard. God has given us all a story to tell. Let's not hesitate to tell people what Jesus means to us personally.

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**Prayer Focus:** Pray for the soul to see the vision God has sent to you and to understand how they can direct your attention to Him. May we all use the story of our journey to Jesus to help lead one of the lost children of God home.



**Day 25: February 8**  
**Read Acts 27:1-44; 28:1-31**

### MOVEMENT

*But we want to hear what you believe, for the only thing we know about this movement is that it is denounced everywhere. Acts 28:22*

The first thing to notice in this verse is simple, the people wanted to hear about what Paul believed. They want to know about Jesus!! So Paul sets a meeting and verse 24 says, “some were persuaded...” Was it worth it to Paul? To be arrested, beaten, stoned, whipped, mocked, shipwrecked and imprisoned? Absolutely. Yes, because some were persuaded. The other thing in this verse is that the movement was “denounced everywhere.” As Christians, we get livid, angry and ready to fight, fight, over the world and its constant barrage at our faith. We boycott. We shun. We picket. We shout. We tell the world how wrong they are, forgetting to tell them how right Jesus is.

“For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.” Acts 28:30-31

The only thing that would keep us from doing what God has called us to do is ourselves. Paul sacrificed his time, energy, money and life to do what God called him to and no one could stop him until his dying day! God has cleared the way, torn down all the obstacles and nothing can stand in our way of living for Him. Are you ready to move?

### NOTES:

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**Prayer Focus:** Pray that we would have the courage to share our faith and lives for God’s Kingdom. Pray that “God’s Unfolding Story” is more than just a sermon series, but a moment in time when we look back as a church and say, “Wow, look at what God has done with us!”

