



CHRISTIANS ON TRIAL

FEAR, FAITH, & REASON
ACTS 25:1-12

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • May 4 & 5, 2024 • Acts, week 121 • Msg. 24-16

1. Remember _____ (vv.1-7)

2. Trust _____ (v.12)

3. Get _____ (vv.8-11)

Acts 25:1 Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. **2** And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him, **3** asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way. **4** Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly. **5** “So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.” **6** After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. **7** When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. **8** Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.” **9** But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?” **10** But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. **11** If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” **12** Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.” (ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Peter 5:8-9** and **Ephesians 6:10-12**. What are some of the ways you see this kind of opposition played out in your life? How does it help to consider that the enemy is behind so many of the things that seek to derail your loyalty and obedience to Christ?
2. Read **Acts 23:11** and **Acts 27:24**. When you look back at your life and how God's plan has unfolded for you, at what junctures did your next steps require courage, faith, and fearlessness? How did you do in displaying those?
3. Read **Jeremiah 42:7-12**. Just as the Church has been promised that it will accomplish all its divinely ordained goals in this age, Israel was promised the same during the exile in Babylon. How can Jeremiah's words to Israel strengthen you to be optimistic and bold in living out your role as a part of the New Testament Church?
4. Read **Proverbs 4:1-13**. How might the wisdom described in this passage help you make good decisions, and aid you in navigating the particular challenges and trials you presently face?
5. Read **James 3:13-18**. How does godly wisdom differ from the kinds of strategic thinking and intelligent defenses the world may cling to during times of trouble and difficulty?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 10-20 – **Reasons for Confidence No Matter What**
Msg. 16-01 – **The Fear of Not Having Enough**
Msg. 19-13 – **Fearless**
Msg. 18-19 – **God's Good Plans**
Msg. 14-17 – **Lifelines: For Tough Times**
Msg. 19-30 – **Unfazed by Sovereign Challenges**
Msg. 11-62 – **The Position, Power, & Activity of Satan**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

May 5th..... 1Kgs.10-11 & Lk.24:1-35
May 6th..... 1Kgs.12-13 & Lk.24:36-53
May 7th..... 1Kgs.14-15 & Jn.1:1-28
May 8th..... 1Kgs.16-18 & Jn.1:29-51
May 9th..... 1Kgs.19-20 & Jn.2
May 10th..... 1Kgs.21-22 & Jn.3:1-21
May 11th..... 2Kgs.1-3 & Jn.3:22-36
May 12th..... 2Kgs.4-5 & Jn.4:1-30

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Adams, Jay. **What Do You Do When You Worry All the Time?** P & R Publishing, 1975.
Alcorn, Randy. **If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil.** Multnomah Books, 2014.
Cosby, Brian H. **Suffering and Sovereignty: John Flavel and the Puritans on Afflictive Providence.** RH Books, 2012.
Dickason, C. Fred. **Angels: Elect & Evil.** Moody Press, 1975.
Lane, Timothy. **Living Without Worry: How to Replace Anxiety with Peace.** The Good Book Company, 2015.
MacArthur, John. **Anxious for Nothing: God Cares for the Cares of Your Soul.** Victor Books, 2006.
Morgan, Christopher. **Suffering and the Goodness of God.** Crossway, 2008.
Pearcy, Nancy. **Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity.** Crossway, 2008.
Piper, John & Justin Taylor, eds. **Suffering and the Sovereignty of God.** Crossway, 2006.
Rhodes, Ron. **Angels Among Us: Separating Truth from Fiction.** Harvest House, 2001.
Stott, John R. W. **Your Mind Matters.** InterVarsity, 1972.
Veith, Gene Edward. **Loving God with All Your Mind: Thinking as a Christian in the Postmodern World.** Crossway, 03.
Watson, Thomas. **All Things for Good.** (Puritan Paperbacks) Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1986.