

LESSONS THIS QUARTER {11}

1) 01 Sep 2024	Acts 13a	Sent
2) 08 Sep	Acts 13b	The Task
3) 15 Sep	Acts 14	The Truth
4) 22 Sep	Acts 15a	The Gospel
5) 29 Sep	Acts 15b	Kingdom Work
6) 06 Oct	Acts 16	Every Opportunity
7) 13 Oct	Acts 17	Believe
8) 20 Oct	Acts 18	Together
9) 27 Oct	Acts 19	Motives
10) 03 Nov	Acts 20-21	Commit
11) 10 Nov	Acts 22-25	Witness
12) 17 Nov	Acts 26-27	Respond
13) 24 Nov	Acts 28	Trust

INTRODUCTION

- Luke spends considerable amount of ink (3 chapters) depicting Paul defending himself before his fellow Jews, before the Jewish Council, before governors Felix and Festus, and before visiting dignitary Agrippa II and his sister, Bernice. It must be important

The Players	Their Role
1. Paul	• He just wanted to do God's will
2. Ananias of Damascus	• Well known disciple of Christ
3. The Way	• Christianity was a cult to many
4. Ephesian Jews	• The instigators of Paul's trouble
5. Pharisees	• They believed in the afterlife, but not in Jesus being the Messiah
6. Sadducees	• They didn't believe in the afterlife; that's why they were sad you see
7. Jewish Council (Sanhedrin)	• Composed of up to 70 Pharisees, Sadducees, Lawyers, & Scribes
8. Centurions	• Military leader of ~100 soldiers
9. Captain Claudius Lysias	• Oversaw several centurions
10. Ananias, Chief Priest	• Herod, king of Chalcis, in AD 48, promoted Ananias to priest
11. Suicide Squad	• Bent on radicalism
12. Paul's nephew	• God used him to rat on others
13. Governor Felix	• Governor of Judea, AD 51-60
14. Governor Festus	• Appointed by Nero to succeed Felix, AD 60.
15. Lawyer Tertullus	• Hired by the Jews for Paul's trial
16. Caesar	• Nero at this time
17. King Agrippa II & Bernice (Looking at Bernice's Bio, why did she chase after men who were in seats of power?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brother & sister of Herod Agrippa I • Bernice was the wife of Herod, King of Chalcis till he died, then she lived with her brother, Agrippa II, incestuously. • Bernice later married Polemon II, king of Pontus or Cilicia; but eventually became mistress of both Roman emperors Vespasian and Titus (70s-80s AD)

Passage	Comments
Acts 22:1-30	<p>Paul's Defense Before the Jews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. Paul had some impressive credentials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Born a Jew in a prominent Roman city of Tarsus ♦ Educated by Gamaliel, a renowned Pharisee & strict doctor/teacher of the Law of Moses ♦ Persecuted "the Way" – thought to be a perverted cult by most Jews. He imprisoned believers and tortured them till they blasphemed Acts 26:11 • vv6-21. Paul thought he was doing God a favor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would you want to see an ISIS terrorist who beat and beheaded Christians become a Christian?

Passage	Comments
23:1-35	<p>Paul Before the Jewish Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next, Paul was brought before the Jewish Sanhedrin, composed of 70 men by tradition (Num 11:16,17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why couldn't these spiritual leaders, who were knowledgeable in the law of Moses come to grips with Paul's mission? What were they missing? • vv12-22. A conspiracy was formed to kill Paul. Notice how God worked behind the scenes to reveal the plot and move Paul closer and closer to Rome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does God still work providentially today? ... Oh Yeah! ♦ Any recent examples to share?
24:1-27	<p>Paul Before Felix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. Notice that Paul knew when to witness and when not to witness. Why was it inappropriate for Paul to witness while he was paying his vows in Jerusalem? Yet, he often visited synagogues to witness. • v16. Principle of maintaining a blameless conscience before God and men. What does this mean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is it appropriate to witness while on work time? ♦ What other times is it inappropriate to witness?
25:1-27	<p>Paul Before Festus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v11. Paul appeals to Caesar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle of Standing Firm. We may be a vulnerable lot, but we are never commanded to be floor mats ♦ We need to realize when it is appropriate to fight, or flee, stand firm, or surrender & suffer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fight Acts 25:11b ▪ Flee Mat 10:23 ▪ Stand Firm..... 1Cor 16:13 ▪ Surrender & Suffer Rom 8:36

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Just like the Pharisees and Sadducees, many in the world and even in the church, fail to grasp the teachings and sacrifice of Jesus – but if we love God, teach we must, even if it means loss of freedom, loss of a job, or even the loss of life.
- BUT keep a clear conscience before God & man. If anyone suffers for Christ, his reward is great and he is not to be ashamed, but it is to glorify God [1Peter 4:16](#)

NEXT WEEK: Acts 26. Paul is sent to Rome for trial, and suffers shipwreck on Malta.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Its from our church... we've been called up for active duty."