

Acts 23 “Supernaturally Natural!”

[#1] Remember - They were falsely accusing Paul of teaching Jews to forsake Moses and the Law... Paul says ‘That’s _____!’
(Phil. 3:5-6; Rom. 7:7; Matt. 23, 33)

[#2] Paul cries “The _____ is the reason for the controversy that surrounds me.” This Jesus of Nazareth that you crucified is living proof of the Resurrection!
(Acts 5:34-39)

[#3] At his darkest hour ... that’s precisely when the _____ to him, saying, “Be of good cheer, Paul. You’re doing more than you think.” In other words “Good Job, Paul!

[#4] This begs the question... Was Paul in or out of God’s will by stubbornly heading to Jerusalem, going against the Godly wisdom of those who loved him the most? The Answer _____ .

[#5] Here’s my point... Did Paul do everything right? I doubt it. But in the end _____ got him where He wanted him to go. _____ fulfilled His will for Paul.
(Psalm 18:36)

[#6] For whatever question you face presently, just make sure your _____ is open to the Lord ...

[Prov 3:5-6] “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (NIV ‘He will make your paths straight’; MSG ‘He’s the one who will keep you on track’)

Acts 23 “Supernaturally Natural!”

[#1] Remember - They were falsely accusing Paul of teaching Jews to forsake Moses and the Law... Paul says ‘That’s **FAKE NEWS!**’
(Phil. 3:5-6; Rom. 7:7; Matt. 23, 33)

[#2] Paul cries “The **RESURRECTION** is the reason for the controversy that surrounds me.” This Jesus of Nazareth that you crucified is living proof of the Resurrection!
(Acts 5:34-39)

[#3] At his darkest hour ... that’s precisely when the **LORD CAME** to him, saying, “Be of good cheer, Paul. You’re doing more than you think.” In other words “Good Job, Paul!

[#4] This begs the question... Was Paul in or out of God’s will by stubbornly heading to Jerusalem, going against the Godly wisdom of those who loved him the most? The Answer **?** .

[#5] Here’s my point... Did Paul do everything right? I doubt it. But in the end **GOD** got him where He wanted him to go. **GOD** fulfilled His will for Paul.
(Psalm 18:36)

[#6] For whatever question you face presently, just make sure your **HEART** is open to the Lord ...

[Prov 3:5-6] “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (NIV ‘He will make your paths straight’; MSG ‘He’s the one who will keep you on track’)

whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. [9] The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. [10] But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. [11] Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: [12] I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. [13] I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. [14] Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress."

TAKING IT HOME

- 10) Write down at least one thing from the above passage that you want to do better at.
- 11) Looking back at this week's teaching and homework, what is most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of September 5, 2021

WELCOME TO LIFE GROUPS!

This week we kick off our Fall Life Group Quarter! Your first meeting is designed to give you time to get acquainted and connect with each other. Meetings are 1.5 hours long consisting of discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

To prepare for your first meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you build friendships and grow closer to the Lord!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) What are one or two things you enjoyed most this summer?
- 2) As you think about the next twelve weeks, what is one thing you hope to get out of your Life Group experience this quarter?

REVIEW

- 3) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

4) This week Paul was in a tough place. If you were in Paul's shoes, why might you question if you made the right choice to come back to Jerusalem?

5) What do you think was Jesus' purpose in speaking to Paul in the following verse?

Acts 23:11 - *"But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.""*

6) In **Colossians 3:15**, Paul tells us to *"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts."* The word translated "rule" literally means to *umpire*. When we sin, we can imagine a whistle being blown in our hearts, notifying us that we've *lost* that peace of God. The Holy Spirit also uses this peace of God in our hearts to guide us in decision making. If possible, think of a time when the peace of God confirmed or opposed a decision in your life.

7) Both in Scripture and in life, God tends to give us more of a "game plan" than a "blueprint". Rather than explain to Paul the details of *when* and *how* he would get to Rome, God simply said, "You'll witness for Me in Rome." Why

do you think God often leaves us wondering about the details of His will for us?

8) This week, Lee shared that God accomplished His purpose in Paul's life - despite the fact that Paul didn't do everything perfectly. How do the following verses encourage you regarding God's purpose and plan in *your* life?

Psalms 37:4 - *"Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."*

Psalms 119:105 - *"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."*

Proverbs 16:9 - *"A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."*

9) In Philippians 4:4-14, Paul tells us God's will for us, which applies no matter where we are in life. What are 3-4 things that we can do to be in God's will regardless of our circumstances.

Philippians 4:4-14 - *"[4] Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! [5] Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. [6] Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; [7] and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. [8] Finally, brethren,*