

2024 - Family Devo

Nov 3 - a



READ: Acts 24:1-9

Main Idea: In Caesarea, Paul is now going to stand trial before Felix. His Jewish accusers begin to make their arguments against him. They call him a “plague” who stirs up riots everywhere as a ringleader of a sect. They say he tried to profane the Jewish Temple as well. None of these things were true, of course, but surely it didn’t feel good to Paul to be spoken of so terribly.

DISCUSS

Children: Have you ever been in a courtroom? In a courtroom a judge is seated to hear the case that is brought in. The judge will hear statements from both sides and make a decision of what to do. The judge in this courtroom is the Governor of Caesarea, Felix. He is seated waiting to hear this case against Paul. The high priest and the unbelieving Jews of Jerusalem have brought a lawyer named Tertullus to present their charges against Paul. The following are the charges they have brought against Paul:

1. Paul is a trouble maker who stirs up riots among the Jews all over the world. 2. He is the ringleader of the Nazarene sect and even tried to desecrate the temple.

Teen: Do words have the power to hurt? Who do they hurt? Explain?

Adult: False Accusations. Have you been falsely accused of some act? Why are false accusations so hurtful? Does it seem almost impossible to prove a negative...that you didn't do whatever...that you weren't where someone says they saw you? Do you think that all the Jews knew these were lies against Paul or were they caught up in the moment and joined with the crowd?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 147:5 (ESV)
**Great is our Lord, and
abundant in power;
his understanding is
beyond measure.**

2024 - Family Devo

Nov 3 - b

READ: Acts 24:10-21

Main Idea: Paul makes his defense and points out that none of the things he was being accused of were true. In doing so, he makes a noble statement, that he tries very hard to always have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

DISCUSS

Children: After hearing the Jews' side of the issue, Felix nods to Paul to present his side. Paul doesn't have a lawyer. The Holy Spirit enables Paul to speak in his own defense. Paul states that the facts that he is presenting can be proven to be true.

Paul states:

1. Twelve days ago he went to Jerusalem to worship.
2. He was not found arguing with anyone at the temple or stirring up trouble in the synagogues or in the city.

Paul admits:

1. He worships the God of his fathers.
2. He is a follower of the Way (Christians) (which the unbelieving Jews call a sect).
3. He believes all that is written in the Law and the prophets.
4. He believes in the same hope as these Jews that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

As a result of Paul's beliefs he makes every effort to always keep his conscience clear before God and man. What does it mean to have a clear conscience? How do you feel when you have a guilty conscience? (Weighed down, sick to your stomach, etc.)

Teen: Paul defends himself against the lies, but makes it clear that him being a follower of Jesus is true. Which do you think was more important to Paul, that the truth about his actions be believed or the truth about Jesus? Do you care more about what people think of you, or that they see Jesus in you? How can a clear conscience toward both God and man be achieved?

Adult: Paul's accusers didn't mention the good things he had done, the gifts for the poor or his offerings. Do you believe that any person is totally good or totally evil, as the world defines these? Have you heard of someone we might call despicable, yet they were a good parent? Do you find it interesting that Paul said he tried to keep his conscience clear? After the persecutions he once led how could he have a clear conscience before God.

PRAY

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