

2024 - Family Devo

Oct 20 - a

READ: Acts 22:30 - 23:5

Main Idea: Paul has been “rescued” (arrested) from a mob of Jews who were about to kill him. The Roman leader (tribune) is trying to find out what the issue is. He brings Paul before the Jewish leaders and lets Paul plead his case. As Paul starts, the high priest orders the Jews standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. Paul tells them God will judge him for that. But once they point out that he was speaking against God’s high priest, Paul in essence apologizes and quotes the Bible verse that says, “You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.”

DISCUSS

Children: Paul relates with the Jews and shares his Jewish training. He understands their anger because he once persecuted anyone who taught Jesus was the Messiah. He tells of how he got permission from the high priest and the council to go to Damascus and arrest anyone who was teaching that Jesus is the Messiah.

Teen: Do you think the command to not speak ill of leaders still stands today? If so, who are some leaders of our people that we should be respectful of? What Paul says to the high priest does not seem bad, but Paul’s reaction says he does not think God would approve. What should be our deciding factor about what is right or wrong, God or ourselves.

Adult: It is one thing to live in all good conscience, but Paul said this? How could he say this when he persecuted Christians? Do you think he was remembering all the Christians who died at his hand or due to his actions? What do you think he meant when he said this? Why could he say this?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 119:11 (ESV)
I have stored up your
word in my heart,
that I might not sin
against you.

2024 - Family Devo

Oct 20 - b



READ: Acts 23:6-11

Main Idea: When Paul realizes these Jews are both Pharisees and Sadducees he brings up a topic that he knows they sharply disagree on, the resurrection of the dead. His plan works perfectly and they begin to argue so much that the Roman tribune has to remove Paul and put him back in the barracks. The following night Jesus appears to Paul and tells him to take courage, that he would testify about Jesus also in Rome.

DISCUSS

Children: This demonstrates how God can utilize even bad circumstances to fulfill His purposes. Paul stands strong in the midst of trials, using wisdom and courage. God's protection over Paul is clear, and he is reassured that his mission in Rome will come to pass.

Teen: Why would Paul gain courage from the words Jesus spoke? How do you think Paul felt about these words? Paul had to be rescued by a gentile. Have you ever received help from an unlikely source? Is there anyone God can't use?

Adult: Do you think Paul knew what the outcome would be when he mentioned resurrection of the dead? Do you think this was a wise approach? Why or why not? Does it make you think of other situations where 2 sides are opposed and no matter what is said by one, the other disagrees or is against it?

PRAY

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