

ACTS 23-26 | THREE CHAPTERS, FOUR YEARS,
AND NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT
WAVE CHURCH SD | SEPT. 4, 2022

Acts 22:30-23:5 (ESV) ³⁰But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them. And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." ²And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?" ⁴Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" ⁵And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'

FAITHFULNESS IS ALWAYS MEASURED BY FAITHFULNESS,
NEVER THE OUTCOME

1 Peter 2:19-21 (ESV) ¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

John 1:9-11 (ESV) ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

John 8:12-16 (ESV) ¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me."

PAUL'S RESPONSE TO A PUNCH IN THE FACE

- HE REFUSED TO PLAY JUDGE
- HE TRUSTED IN GOD'S JUSTICE

WHEN IT COMES TO GRACE AND MERCY,
WE CAN ONLY PASS ON THAT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED

Matthew 25:34-40 (ESV) ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?' ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?' ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 7:2 (ESV) For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you

Acts 23:6-9 (ESV) ⁶Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." ⁷And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. ⁹Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OBSTACLE AND AN
OPPORTUNITY IS FOUND IN OUR PERSPECTIVE

Acts 23:10-11 (ESV) *¹⁰And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. ¹¹The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”*

A CHRISTIAN'S COURAGE IS BASED ON KNOWING GOD

WILL WORK IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

OUR GREATEST GOAL IN LIFE HAS TO BE ABOUT WHERE WE ARE

IN CHRIST RATHER THAN WHERE WE ARE IN LIFE