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Do Not Be Afraid

Acts 25:1-12

I. Felix Feared the Truth (24:24-27)

- A. He was afraid of Paul's _____ (v. 24) [Acts 21:13; 24:24]

- B. He was afraid of Paul's _____ (v. 25) [Titus 2:12-13]

- C. He was afraid of Paul's _____ (vv. 26-27) [Acts 12:3; 26:24]

II. Festus Feared the Jews (25:1-5, 9)

- A. He wanted to know what the Jews _____ (vv. 1-3) [Isa. 29:13]

- B. He wanted the Jews to _____ with him to Caesarea (vv. 4-5)
[Acts 24:5-8]

- C. He wanted to do the Jews a _____ (v. 9)
[Deut. 31:6; Prov. 29:25; Gal. 1:10]

III. Paul Feared Nothing (25:6-12)

- A. He was not afraid of _____ accusations (vv. 6-8)
[1 Jn. 5:4; Eph. 1:5-6; Jn. 17:23; Rom. 8:33, 34, 38, 39; Psa. 73:6-17;
Matt. 5:43-44; Psa. 109:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:21-23]

- B. He was not afraid to use the _____ of government (vv. 9-12)
[Acts 23:11]

- C. He was not afraid of _____ (v. 11) [Phil. 1:21]

TAKE HOME

- What do you _____ most in this life? Does that fear paralyze you or remind you to lean in to Jesus, His power, and His plan for your life?
- What do you do when you face _____ accusations? Have you learned to spend more time talking to God about it than defending yourself to others?
- What if you had no fear of death? How would that _____ your life and ministry opportunities? Would they be different or remain the same?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read Acts 24:24-27. What was Paul’s faith all about? Do we talk about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come today? What does this look like in your life? (Titus 2:12-13)

2. Read Acts 25:1-5. What do you think about Festus? What did he do that was good? What was going on in the hearts of the Jews? Why? (Isa. 29:13)

3. Read Acts 25:9. What does Festus do here that shows he is still a politician and he is fearing man over God? Have you ever struggled with the fear of man? What does that look like in your life? What do these verses say about it (Deut. 31:6; Prov. 29:25; Gal. 1:10)?

4. Read Acts 25:6-8. Why were the Jews making false accusations? What did Paul do about it? What can we learn from his example? What other examples encourage you in Scripture? (1 Jn. 5:4; Eph. 1:5-6; Jn. 17:23; Rom. 8:33, 34, 38, 39; Psa. 73:6-17; Matt. 5:43-44; Psa. 109:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:21-23)

5. Read Acts 25:9-12. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar? Do you think this was a wise thing to do? What gave him confidence to do so? When do you use the law to protect you? (Acts 23:11)

6. Read Acts 25:11. Why didn’t Paul fear death? Have you ever struggled with the fear of death? How did you fight this fear? How can you grow in this area? (Phil. 1:21)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? What will you change in your life this week based on what you have learned from this passage?

“We ought never to fear those who are defending the wrong side, for since God is not with them, their wisdom is folly, their strength is weakness, and their glory is their shame.”

- C.H. Spurgeon