

ACTS STUDY QUESTIONS

WEEK 8: PAUL'S OPPOSITION

Monday, July 5: Acts 21:27-22:16

1. Paul was attacked and beaten by an angry mob. This mob was stirred up by some of the Jews from Asia. Possibly many of the people who were beating Paul did so merely because others in the crowd were doing it. Have you ever joined in an activity just because everyone else was doing it, even if you disagreed or didn't understand why it was being done? How can we develop the courage to resist giving in to mob mentality? Pray that God will give you the strength to stand up for what is right even if it means going against the crowd.
2. In his defense, Paul told the story of his dramatic conversion. Telling a story is a powerful way to deliver a message. What are some of your most powerful stories? Think of a specific story or two that you would tell someone to share what God has done in your life at certain times of need.

Tuesday, July 6: Acts 22:17-29

1. After listening to Paul's defense, the people still rejected him (v. 22). How do you feel when people reject you and/or your message? We cannot control how other people perceive us. It is important to remember that God is the only one we should try to please. Spend some time today reflecting on God's love for you.
2. In verse 25, just before being flogged, Paul revealed that he was a Roman citizen. He could have provided this information from the beginning, but he identified himself first as a Jew and a follower of God. What is the most important aspect of your identity? How would you respond if someone were to ask "Who are you?"

Wednesday, July 7: Acts 22:30-23:11

1. Paul apologized for speaking against the high priest in 23:5, for he did not wish to disobey the command to not speak evil of a leader. Sometimes leaders do things we disagree with, but they remain our leaders. What response should we have? Think about how you can support those in authority above you. Take some time to pray for the leaders of our church and our nation.
2. There was great dissension between the members of the council over the issue of resurrection of the dead, which hindered their decision in Paul's case. Consider your disagreements with others. Ask God to reveal what issues are truly important in these relationships and to help you to restore unity.

Thursday, July 8: Acts 23:12-35

1. More than forty men joined in the conspiracy against Paul. They were so passionate about their desire to kill Paul that they vowed to not eat or drink until it was done. Consider what great things these men could have done if their passion were directed towards a good purpose. How strong is your passion for God? What are you willing to give to him? Pray for a more passionate commitment to the Lord.
2. When Paul's nephew heard about the plot to kill Paul, he went to inform Paul and then the tribune without any hesitation. In the body of Christ, we ought to be willing to stand up for one another in this way. Is there anyone in your life that needs an advocate? Consider how you can defend or speak up for someone this week.

Friday, July 9: Acts 24:1-9

1. The attorney who accused Paul used flattery to attempt to get Felix to agree with him. Have you ever tried to flatter someone to get your way instead of just simply speaking the truth? Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." (John 8:32) What truth needs to be spoken in your life today?
2. Paul's fate was in the hands of the governor. Leaders in government have a huge responsibility. The decisions they make affect countless lives. Spend some time in prayer today for the leaders of our country.

This week's questions were written by FBCP's Christy Johanningmeier. Christy is an M.Div. student at Fuller Seminary. Before moving to California, Christy lived in Asia for nine years. She taught English in China and taught third grade at an international Christian school in South Korea. Christy hopes to return overseas and teach Bible after graduating from seminary. Please make sure you thank Christy for her efforts in putting these questions together.