

WE ARE ALL
WITNESSES
THE BOOK OF ACTS

Expectations When on Mission

Pastor Tommy Creutz | Acts 23:31—24:27

ICE BREAKER:

Describe a time when waiting felt especially long or frustrating (whether it be in line at Disneyland or a more serious time). Or, share a time you spoke up for what you believe, even if it felt uncomfortable.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Identify and discuss Paul's key points as he countered accusations (v. 10-21) and also clarified "faith in Christ Jesus" (v. 22-27)

How do we see Paul wait on the Lord and hope in Him? For Biblical background on God's timing in relation to ours, read Psalm 27:14 and Lamentations 3:25-26.

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Paul remained faithful to the Gospel message. Paul gave a clear defense without being defensive. How can we become more like Paul (see 1 Cor 11:1) and share the Gospel message even when our faith is questioned?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Paul experienced mistreatment and much waiting. Are you facing these situations now? How can you persevere with a "good conscience toward both God and man" (v. 16) when you walk through these moments?

How does the Resurrection help Paul — and us — shift our focus from "Why me, Lord?" to "What now, Lord?"

PARENTING MOMENT:

Building on Paul's example, read James 1:2–4 together as a family. Ask your kids what kinds of trials they might face as followers of Jesus. Explain that one trial could be being falsely accused because of their faith. When that happens, encourage them to stand firm and count it as joy. Remind them that trials produce perseverance and that God uses them to help us grow and mature in our faith!

FURTHER STUDY:

For more on the importance of the Resurrection for both our future hope and also for help in the here and now, read David Briones' article "Already, Not Yet: How to Live in the Last Days" at desiringgod.org.

For a good summer read: Greg Koukl's "Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions."