



Daily Walk on the Rock

The week of April 28, 2024

Monday

ACTS Chapter 20

Verses 1-20 remind us clearly of Paul's love for the newly-won converts to Christ. He goes out of his way to encourage them and to affirm Christ's power in their lives and leadership. Do you think that is an important thing for him to do? Is it important for us in our church today? Why? In 17-37, Paul talks to the elders of the church and says goodbye. What hardships has Paul experienced so far? What continues to motivate him and keep him on watch (24)? How is your walk of faith as the hardships and challenges come? What is 24 saying to you this day? Spend time in prayer.

Tuesday

ACTS Chapter 21

In 1-26 we read about Paul's trip to Syria to find the disciples and his time with them. Verses 18-25 find Paul in Jerusalem with James and the elders. How would Paul's teachings upset the strict Jews (21-26)? How might James' suggestions have solved some of the problems? In light of 23-24, how do you know when you, like Paul, should bend for the sake of the gospel? What parts of your faith are bendable and what parts are not? Churches often split over disagreements about minor issues or traditions. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, and spend time in prayer asking God to reveal the negotiable and non-negotiable areas in your faith.

Wednesday

ACTS 22

At the end of chapter 21, Paul is arrested and asks to speak to the commander. At the beginning of chapter 22, Paul addresses the crowd in Aramaic. Why does Paul think it is important to address this hostile crowd? Why does his mention of Jesus not upset the crowd, while his mention of the Gentiles does (21)? The Jewish audience chooses to remain separate and exclusive. Despite that, God's plan does not change and Gentiles are given the good news. Is it still true today, that God's plan marches on? Paul's citizenship (22-29) becomes an asset for sharing the gospel with the Gentiles. What traits, experiences or skills do you have that can help you share the gospel with others?

Thursday

ACTS 23

Paul appears before the Sanhedrin and shows his respect for the Jewish law (1-5). Why does he change the focus to the resurrection (6)? How does the split between the people affect Paul's case (7-10)? God spoke to Paul in Acts 18:9-10, and God speaks to Paul again in 11. How does this help him? How has God encouraged you in

hard times? How does Paul feel after learning of the Jews' plot to kill him (12-16)? What risk does Paul's sister's son take? Have you ever been called upon to stand up for someone that others disliked? What gave you your strength? What difference does Jesus Christ make in your everyday life? Is there a "Rome" in your spiritual journey?

Friday

ACTS 24

At the end of chapter 23, Paul is taken to Caesarea to be presented to Governor Felix. He is kept in prison at Herod's palace, and the charges against him are described in chapter 24. How would the charges in 5-6 seem true to Ananias and Tertullus? How does Paul defend himself (11-19)? What do you learn about Felix from 22-26? Why does he just put Paul under house arrest? Reflecting on 23:11, what is in Paul's mind as time wears on and no progress is made? Has your faith ever been misunderstood by others? How did you feel? Have you ever had a time when there seems to be nothing you can do but trust God? Sometimes we are put in places where we have no choice. Why do you think God allows these times in our lives? Are you in one of those places right now? Spend time in prayer, and end by thanking God for God's abiding presence and grace.

Saturday

ACTS 25

Verses 1-12 describe Paul's trial before Festus. Two years have passed. Why hasn't the opposition by the Jewish leaders dissipated? They ask that Paul be taken to Jerusalem, so that they might kill him along the way. Why does Paul want to be tried by Caesar's court? Read Romans 1:10. Paul wants to preach the good news to Rome. Would this allow him the opportunity? Why? Paul is called before King Agrippa (13-27). How fair is Festus' description of the case? Is he trying to find the truth? If someone tried to convict you of being a Christian, would they have enough evidence? Paul uses every opportunity to serve God and to share the good news with others. Do you? What's keeping you from sharing your faith and serving God? Pray that God will prepare you and send you.

Sunday

PSALM 126

This amazing psalm describes God's ability to restore life beyond our understanding. Nothing is a permanent condition. God can bring good out of tragedy, hope out of despair, and courage in the midst of helplessness. As we wait with patience, God's joy is coming! Write your own psalm describing a time when God did something so great that you had to pinch yourself to see if it was real.