The Book of Acts Lesson 42

Acts 24:1-27

“The Miserable Mansion of Felix”

# Paul’s accusers had their day in court.

1. Felix was the judge who held Paul’s life in his hand.
   1. God preserved Paul’s life up to this point to give him audience before many multitudes.
2. Tertullus was a great lawyer who was brought in by the Jews to build a case against Paul.
3. He derided Paul, calling him a pestilent fellow.
4. He accused Lysias the Roman Governor of unfairly taking Paul out of their jurisdiction.
5. The accusation against Paul in v. 5 is a serious one.
   1. They called him a mover of sedition, a traitor to Caesar.
   2. They said he was a ringleader of a group that was a threat to both the mighty Roman Empire and the ancient tradition of the Jews.

Transition: After the short case against him, Paul speaks the truth:

# Paul’s defense hits the mark in Felix.

1. Paul owned his motives in preaching the gospel. V.10-24
   1. He was not motivated by violence or a desire to hurt the present establishment.
   2. He simply wanted to obey and glorify the God of his fathers.
   3. He admitted to Felix that he was of “this way”, which is what they called Christians at this time. V.14
2. Paul proclaimed his belief in the resurrection.
   1. This is central to Christian belief.
   2. If Christ be not risen from the dead, then our faith is vain.
3. Felix was apparently uncomfortable at Paul’s preaching because he lied to get away.
   1. He already had Lysias’ letter stating that Paul was not guilty of committing any crime.
   2. He walked away when he heard of the righteousness of God in the world.

Transition: Paul may not have known Felix’ situation, but he was speaking directly to him.

# Felix heard his condemnation and was hardened.

1. Felix was an unrighteous man.
   1. His wife Drusilla is known in history to have been very beautiful.
   2. Felix schemed to steal Drusilla from her husband.
   3. This was Felix’ third wife.
2. When Paul discussed righteousness, temperance and judgment to come Felix trembled.
   1. When we are confronted with the Word of God we must admit that there are areas that we are unrighteous.
   2. A major part of the Christian life is abstaining from fleshly appetites and excess.
3. When Paul preached to Felix he retreated to a life of convenience.
   1. Felix was motivated by money, desiring a bribe. V. 26
   2. Felix was motivated by the latest popularity polls, trying to please the Jews. v. 27
4. He held Paul in prison for two years.
   1. This was the longest that a Roman could be held without being convicted of a crime.

Transition: Like Felix we all have had Paul’s come along through whom God spoke to us. How did you respond?

# The Holy Spirit is able to bring mighty conviction in the areas we need, this requires a respectful response.

1. The audience showed respect to Felix.
   1. Tertullus v. 2
   2. Paul v. 10
2. When the Lord spoke to he turned away.
3. What is the Lord speaking to you about this morning?
   1. Salvation.
   2. Baptism.
   3. Faithfulness to Sunday School.
   4. Witnessing.
   5. Tithing.
   6. Loving your wife.
   7. Showing respect to your husband.
   8. Leading your children in the ways of the Lord.

Conclusion: It often comes when we are not expecting it, but we must remember that God is always trying to work on us. He is so gracious and kind to be patient enough to speak and warn us about the dangers that we so many times intend to bring upon ourselves. When God speaks to you listen. Don’t be motivated in your decisions by greed or selfishness. The difference between the miserable throne of Felix and the blessed bonds of Paul is the willingness to hear God and obey. Where are you sitting this morning? Are you on a miserable mansion like Felix? If you are, you don’t have to stay there. Obedience to God will lead you to a blessed life, no matter where that may be.