# The Book of Acts Lesson 45

# Acts 25:22-27

“Standing Up To Scrutiny”

Webster defines “attack” as: to threaten with force, to assault

1. Can we respond in a Christ-like manner when constantly under attack?

 A. How do you live when constantly under attack?

 1. We are attacked every day from several angles:

 a. Satan – John 10:10

 b. World – Rom. 12:2; 1 Jn. 2:15-17

 c. Fleshly lusts – 1 Pet. 2:11

 2. Every area of life is attacked

 a. Home

 1) Many are trying destroy marriage and family

 2) People get so busy taking care of each other that they have no time to enjoy each other.

 b. Church

 1) Members get complacent because it is easier

 2) Infiltrated by the world and its philosophy

 c. Nation

 1) People more concerned with charisma than character.

 2) Average person is not interested a change, just in comfort and conscience.

 B. There are many Bible Characters who have been attacked:

 1. Cain wanted Abel dead – jealousy

 2. Sarah wanted Ishmael dead – jealousy

 3. Esau wanted Jacob dead – jealousy (impatient)

 4. Joseph’s brethren wanted him dead – jealousy

 5. Saul wanted David dead – control (insecure in self)

 6. David wanted Uriah dead – pleasure

 7. Ahab wanted Naboth dead – mammon (vineyard)

 8. Nebuchadnezzar wanted the 3 Hebrews dead – false religion (lift up self)

 9. The princes wanted Daniel dead – jealousy Dan. 6:3-4

 10. Herod wanted Messiah baby dead – control (no threat)

 11. Satan wanted to sift Peter as wheat (damage testimony)

 12. The Jews wanted Jesus dead – rage Lk. 23:18; Jn. 19:15

 C. Paul was being attacked once again.

 1. They wanted Paul out of the way.

 2. Why did they want Paul dead?

 a. Jealousy “Everybody is following Paul”

 b. Control “We are losing the nation”

 c. False religion “Jesus is not the Messiah”

 d. Comfort “We want to live how we want. We don’t like how Paul preaches against our sin” (Guilt for killing Jesus)

 e. Racism “Paul is friends with Gentiles”

II. Paul’s life shows how we can respond in a Christ-like manner when constantly under attack.

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# A. Live with uprightness

#  1. v. 26 “I have no certain thing to write unto my lord”

#  1 Pet. 2:18-22

 2. guile – deceit

 B. Live with meekness 1 Pet. 2:23

 1. revile – use abusive language against someone;

 2. heap abuse upon someone

 3. repeatedly ridiculed

 C. Live with happiness 26:2; 1 Pet. 3:13-17

III. Satan has us in his sights - John 10:9; 1 Pet. 5:8

 A. Satan would love to kill our:

 a. soul

 b. testimony

 c. marriage

 d. church

 e. relationship with God

 f. job performance

 g. zeal for God

 h. witness

 i. family

 B. You may feel that many want you out of the way:

 1. Older generation

 a. “Get them out of the way.”

 b. Basically they are saying “We want to live how we want to without the extra burden.”

 2. Party at teen’s house

 a. “Don’t invite so and so. They will spoil our fun. They won’t like this movie”

 b. They are really saying, “We want to have a good time and not feel guilty about it”

 3. Business venture

 a. “Lets leave him out of this decision. You know he will to do what is fair.

 b. We’ll have to report it as income is he is along”

 c. They are saying, “I want to cheat without feeling bad”

 4. Legislation

 a. “We don’t want him on the board. He’ll bring in his Christian values.”

 b. They are saying “We don’t care to hear what God has to say”

Conclusion: We are never alone! God has a purpose!! Let us respond in a Christ-like manner…