

JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

JOY FILLED COMMUNITIES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER  
2023

SUNDAYS  
9am & 10:30am  
9am LIVE

# UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appealing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The Ascension 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

MAP OF THE WORLD



# GOD'S SUPREMACY IN OUR STORY

ACTS 23-24

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WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

## Summary Statement:

In God's supreme power and authority, He will put us in situations that we don't love, but are **ALWAYS** opportunities to experience our Joy in Him and tell others about finding Joy in Him.

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**1) God's supreme power and authority brings us to places we're not expecting.**

**(Acts 23:1-5)**

## Acts 23:1-5

<sup>1</sup> And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” <sup>2</sup> And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. <sup>3</sup> Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?” <sup>4</sup> Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God's high priest?” <sup>5</sup> And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

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For those of you who are married, you will understand this well. Oftentimes when I get frustrated or whenever I say something to my wife she graciously will tell me, “Do you want to try that again?” Completely meaning, “Hey idiot, let’s try and do that not in a way that is being a jerk.”

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- Sometimes these places hurt
- Sometimes we get mad
- Sometimes we put our foot in our mouth

*“God is always doing 10,000 things in your life,  
and you may be aware of three of them.”*

John Piper

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**2) God's supreme power and authority  
sometimes doesn't make sense to us.**

**(Acts 23:12-22)**

## Acts 23:12-22

<sup>12</sup> When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. <sup>14</sup> They went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup> Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near.” <sup>16</sup> Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks

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## Acts 23:12-22

and told Paul. <sup>17</sup> Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him.” <sup>18</sup> So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, “Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you.” <sup>19</sup> The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?” <sup>20</sup> And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him.

## Acts 23:12-22

<sup>21</sup> But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent.” <sup>22</sup> So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, “Tell no one that you have informed me of these things.”

**3) God's Sovereignty ALWAYS brings us places to share the Joy.**

**(Acts 23:6, 24:10-27)**

## Acts 23:6

<sup>6</sup> Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.”

## **a) God uses Paul being a Pharisee to share Joy.**

- Paul is able to identify with the Pharisees to the resurrection
- Paul is open, bold and gracious all at the same time

## Acts 24:10-23

<sup>10</sup> And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: “Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. <sup>11</sup> You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, <sup>12</sup> and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. <sup>13</sup> Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. <sup>14</sup> But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,

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## Acts 24:10-23

<sup>15</sup> having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. <sup>16</sup> So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. <sup>17</sup> Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. <sup>18</sup> While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— <sup>19</sup> they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. <sup>20</sup> Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council,

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## Acts 24:10-23

<sup>21</sup> other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’” <sup>22</sup> But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.” <sup>23</sup> Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.

## **b) God uses Paul being a Pharisee to share Joy.**

- Felix had an accurate knowledge of the way – Highlighting Paul's engagement for him to understand.
- Paul ends up in custody in order to accomplish what He said He was going to do in verse 11 to send Paul to Rome.

## Acts 24:24-27

<sup>24</sup> After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.” <sup>26</sup> At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. <sup>27</sup> When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

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## **c) God uses Paul in Prison to share Joy.**

- Being aware, like Paul, is really **KNOWING** the people on our pray-watch list.

# Implications

- God will put you in spots that we are not expecting
- God will put us in spots that don't make sense to us
- God **ALWAYS** puts us in places to share the Joy