



HOW GOD WORKS IN YOU

THE DIVINE USE OF SECULAR MEANS

ACTS 23:23-35

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • March 23 & 24, 2024 • Acts, week 117 • Msg. 24-10

1. Acknowledge _____

(vv.23-24)

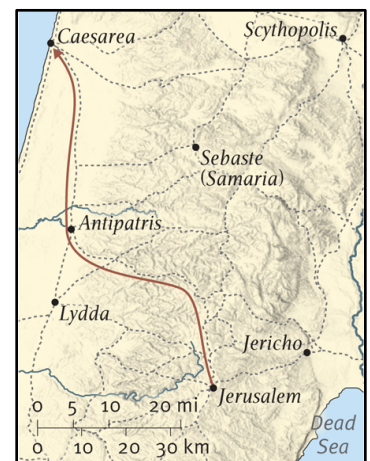
2. Expect _____

(vv.25-27)

3. Remember _____

(vv.28-35)

Acts 23:23 Then he called two of the centurions and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. **24** Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor." **25** And he wrote a letter to this effect: **26** "Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. **27** This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen. **28** And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council. **29** I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. **30** And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him." **31** So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. **32** And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. **33** When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. **34** On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia, **35** he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium. (ESV)



Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Hebrews 11:13-16**. Why is it always good for us to remember our ultimate destination when considering the ups and downs of earthly governments and their friendliness or hostilities toward Christ and Christianity?
2. Read **Revelation 11:15-18** and **Philippians 3:17-21**. How does Christ's sovereign power, which will be fully exercised in the future, help you with the news headlines about corruption both in the church and in politics?
3. Read **Daniel 3:16-19** and **Acts 4:18-21**. What kind of boldness and for what sorts of situations do you think our generation of Christians (and the ones to follow) might need to prepare mentally and spiritually?
4. Read **1 Timothy 2:1-4**; **Proverbs 21:1** and **Daniel 4:28-37**. How does the reality of the Proverbs truth and the example in Daniel motivate you to obey the directive in 1 Timothy 2:1-4?
5. Read **1 Chronicles 29:10-13** and **Psalms 112:6-8**. How can a high view of God, along with regular and consistent expressions of worship keep your heart and your mind steady in our tumultuous culture?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

- Msg. 20-43 – **The Fear of God & Our Government**
- Msg. 18-06 – **Living as Christ's Expatriates**
- Msg. 11-21 – **Elections, Activism, & Civil Disobedience**
- Msg. 11-20 – **Obedience, Honor, & April 15th**
- Msg. 18-04 – **Submitting to Christ's Sovereign Authority**
- Msg. 11-18 – **Human Laws & Christian Conduct**
- Msg. 18-03 – **Adopting Christ's Regal Priorities**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

March 24 th	Josh. 11-13 & Lk. 4:1-32
March 25 th	Josh. 14-15 & Lk. 4:33-44
March 26 th	Josh. 16-18 & Lk. 5:1-16
March 27 th	Josh. 19-20 & Lk. 5:17-39
March 28 th	Josh. 21-22 & Lk. 6:1-26
March 29 th	Josh. 23-24 & Lk. 6:27-49
March 30 th	Judg. 1-2 & Lk. 7:1-30
March 31 st	Judg. 3-5 & Lk. 7:31-50

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- Beckwith, Francis J. **Politics for Christians: Statecraft as Soulcraft**. IVP Academic, 2010.
- Boice, James Montgomery. **Two Cities, Two Loves: Christian Responsibility in a Crumbling Culture**. IVP, 1996.
- Clouse, Robert G. **Two Kingdoms: The Church and Culture Through the Ages**. Moody Press, 1993.
- Culver, Robert Duncan. **Toward a Biblical View of Civil Government**. Moody Press, 1974.
- Feinberg, John & Paul Feinberg. "The Christian & the Secular State" in **Ethics for a Brave New World**. Crossway, 2010.
- Geisler, Norman. "Civil Disobedience" in **Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues & Options**. Baker Books, 2010.
- Grudem, Wayne. **Politics According to the Bible: Modern Political Issues in Light of Scripture**. Zondervan, 2010.
- Hall, David W. **Calvin in the Public Square: Liberal Democracies, Rights and Civil Liberties**.
- Köstenberger, Andreas and Peter O'Brien. **Salvation to the Ends of the Earth**. Intervarsity, 2001.
- Lutzer, Erwin. **When a Nation Forgets God: Seven Lessons We Must Learn from Nazi Germany**. Moody, 2010.
- Shelley, Bruce L. **The Gospel and the American Dream**. Multnomah Press, 1989.
- Thomas, Cal & Ed Dobson. **Blinded by Might: Why the Religious Right Can't Save America (2nd Ed.)**. Zondervan, 2000.
- VanDrunen, David. **Living in God's Two Kingdoms: A Biblical Vision for Christianity & Culture**. Crossway, 2010.