

February 3/4, 2006

Study Questions

The Unstoppable Church

Take Courage

Acts 22:30-23:35

Pastor Mark Kremer

Opening Discussion

1. What problems or tough situations in your life most frustrate or discourage you?
2. How do you typically respond emotionally and spiritually to these situations?
3. What have been some tough situations you have faced as you have tried to obey God and live out your faith?
4. What kinds of mistakes or failures have you had while trying to share your faith in Christ?
5. What helps you to rebound from the tough times and failures?

Bible Study

1. Re-read Acts 9:1-30 to refresh your memory on Saul's (Paul's) putting his faith in Christ and what God called Paul to do with his life. What specific things did God call Paul to do with his life (See especially Acts 9:15-16)?
2. While Paul is out on his third missionary journey, he feels strongly compelled to go to Jerusalem (See Acts 20:16). On the way to Jerusalem, what was he frequently warned about (See Acts 20:22-24; 21:4, 12-14)?

What was Paul's response to these warnings?

Why do you think Paul responded as he did?

3. Paul's presence in Jerusalem created quite a stir. Who were the agitators (See Acts 21:27-29)?

What happened (See Acts 21:30-34)?

4. Beginning in Acts 22:30, Paul is given an opportunity to give a defense before the Sanhedrin (council of elders). What did Paul say to them that provoked such strong reactions (See Acts 23:1-10)?
5. What do you think Paul did well in this encounter? What did he not do so well?

6. How did Paul respond when he realized his poor response to Ananias the high priest? Was this necessary? Why or why not?

How would you have handled this situation?
7. Why is the resurrection so central to being a follower of Jesus (See Acts 23:6-9)?
8. Paul seems to have been discouraged following this encounter. What did God do that very night to encourage Paul (See Acts 23:11)?
9. How do you think this conversation with God helped Paul deal with what happened next (See Acts 23:12-22)?
10. How did God use the Roman commander at Jerusalem to protect Paul and even facilitate the work God called Paul to do?
11. Read Acts 22:24-29. How did the discovery of Paul's Roman citizenship help in his delivery from the hands of the Jews and his opportunity to testify about Jesus to the Roman authorities?
12. How did the opposition and persecution Paul faced create greater opportunities for him to communicate the truth about Jesus?

Application

1. Are you prepared to follow Paul's example in Acts and Peter's instruction in I Peter 3:15, **"always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence"**? How can you be better prepared to share Christ?
2. What should you do when you make a mistake or do the wrong thing towards others, even your enemies?
3. How has God come alongside you and encouraged you when you were discouraged? Has He ever given you assurance and hope *before* you faced a trial or challenge?
4. When you are attacked and feel threatened, what truths can you claim that will see you through?
5. Do you have a clear sense of purpose or call on your life? What is it? How has it changed or grown in recent years?
6. What opportunities is God giving you right now to influence others for Christ and help build His *Unstoppable Church*?