

Date , 2006

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
Defensible Behavior
Acts 24:1-27
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. In accomplishing the mission God has given the Church, which is more important, the message or the lifestyle of the messenger of the Gospel? Why?
2. Describe behavior that would be inconsistent with the message of the Gospel. Can the message of the Gospel have credibility if the messenger acts contrary to the message?
3. What does it mean to be a good Christian, to live consistent with the Gospel message, at work, at play, in your neighborhood and as a citizen?

Bible Study

1. Read Acts 24:1-9. What are the charges against Paul?
2. Read Acts 24:10-21. How does Paul answer each charge?
3. Rework each charge made against Paul and put them into language that would be appropriate for today's culture.
4. Rework Paul's defense in terms that would fit today's culture as you've redefined the charges in question # 4.
5. Read Acts 24:22-27. What is the conflict Felix feels that causes him to "put off" any decision on the charges against Paul? Does he really find Paul's behavior worthy of anything but praise? What has been his experience with those in "The Way?" Is the movement in general worthy of condemnation or praise?
6. What did Paul share with Felix and Drusilla and how did they respond (v. 25)? Why did they respond as they did?
7. It's important to recognize the tension between the fact that Paul's conduct or behavior was exemplary but he was still thrown in prison for two years because of political tensions. What do we learn from this? What part can we control and what part is out of our control?

Application

1. From the viewpoint of a neutral observer, the Gospel caused Paul to live an exemplary life. He conducted himself in a respectful manner, embraced the fulfillment of the Scriptures, honored their religious customs, generously distributed offerings to the needy and abided by the laws of the land. Other than false charges, what was there to criticize? Think through the various relationships and spheres of influence in your life. At work, in your neighborhood, as a citizen, etc... would others say the Gospel has made you better in these areas or not? Why? Is there an area you need to work on?
2. Are there any behaviors or attitudes in your life that people could point to as being inconsistent with the message of the Gospel? What do you need to do to change that?
3. What can you expect from others if you live an exemplary life as a proclaimer of the Gospel?