

Acts: Part 57 - Taking Comfort in Jesus

Acts 22:30-23:11

But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them. And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. 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?" Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" 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.'" 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." And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?" And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

(2 Corinthians 1:3-7, ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

:The danger of lesser sources of comfortWould have had Psalms memorized so maybe would have quoted something like Ps 119

Psalms 119:50, 52, 57:

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O Lord.

The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

But when you look at his life, you see the hypocrite

Matthew 23:27-28

27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Luke 10:17-20,

18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

.Remember when Satan got kicked out of heaven? Yeah, that was me

19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Jesus says, any authority you have, any success you have is from ME. But the comfort Jesus gives is much more than just waiting for something far off while we grit our teeth and bear it

(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, ESV)

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us *eternal comfort and good hope through grace*, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

(John 15:9, ESV) As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.