

“THE LORD IS MY JUDGE”

Acts 24:1-9

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INTRODUCTION

What do you do when you are wrongly accused? How will you defend yourself? How can you prove your false accusers wrong? How will you prevent the injustice that might be done to you?

In this passage of Scripture we see that we often will be wronged and misjudged by others, but that we need not fear—for the Lord is working behind the scenes. The world’s attacks are quite often sophisticated and well planned and funded. What chance does the poor and understaffed believer have against such odds?

Every chance—for God is with us and warned us “do not worry about what you will say” in such a time, for He will be with us and guide us and give us wisdom and the words to speak—as we will see in the next passage.

YOU CAN TRUST THE LORD—EVEN WHEN THE NIGHT SEEMS DARKEST!

THE OPPOSITION

- A. The High priest—Ananias
- B. Some Elders—likely Sadducees
- C. A high powered attorney—Tertullus
- D. A unified attack—note “the Jews” again (9)

THE JUDGE—Felix

- A. Sick Flattery (2-4)
 - 1. Much peace through his administration—“a bald lie”!
 - 2. “Providential care”
 - 3. “Reforms for the nation...in every way and everywhere” (3)
 - 4. “Most Excellent Felix” (3)
 - 5. “All thankfulness”—the Jews generally hated him!
 - 6. No desire to “weary” or “hinder” you further from all the good projects you are carrying out (4)
 - 7. “Moderation, clemency, gracious, forbearing” (v. 4)—“ferocity” and “belligerence” would be a better expression of the truth!
- B. Request to examine the prisoner (8)

THE FALSE CHARGES

- A. A “Pest”—someone dangerous to the public, a public menace! Imagine this statement concerning the greatest preacher of Christianity in the world!
- B. One who stirs up dissention, strife, revolt, and turmoil among the Jews. Now, if they had pressed this point they could have mentioned the following:

Plotted against at Damascus, plotted against at Jerusalem, expelled from Pisidian Antioch, stoned at Lystra, scourged and imprisoned at Philippi, accused of treason at Thessalonica, haled before the proconsul at Corinth, cause of a serious riot at Ephesus, and now finally of a riot at Jerusalem—and chased out of other cities.

- C. This trouble is caused throughout the Roman world—a great threat to Roman peace and stability.
- D. A ringleader of a troublesome sect—a false Messianic sect
 - Not genuine Jews protected by Roman law.
 - This sect is called “Nazarenes”
 - The same term of reproach, sneering, applied to Jesus while on earth
 - Jesus said the servant is not greater than his master.
- E. Attempted desecration of the temple (6)—attempt to make accessible to everyone, to profane, desecration, defile
- F. “We arrested him”—a downright lie! They tried to kill him, an illegal mob action
- G. “Would have judged him”—no attempt to do so
 - This statement, along with v. 7 and 8a not in the best mss, or even in the majority text
 - Evidently an attempt to clarify the abbreviated accusation made by Tertullus.
 - Doesn’t fit with the pronoun in v. 8—“him”; instead of referring to Paul, the reference in KJV would be of Lysias—but he is not the “accused” on trial!
- H. Lysias took him away from us “with great violence”—not true, and unlikely that they would even dare to make such an accusation against such a leading official! [Again, not in best mss]
- I. Commanding accusers to come to you (8a) [not in best mss or majority]; KJV reading makes it sound like the accusers should be examined—but they are plural, and the pronoun is singular!

CONCLUSION

Life can be “scary” and threatening at times to the believer—but we have nothing to fear!
The Lord knows, and is in control.

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