

ACTS

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MUSIC: REBECCA PETERSEN

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Peace in Trying Times

Acts 22:22-23:11

NOTES:

Paul Shrewdly Avoids Harsh Treatment as Hostility Heats Up By...

1. ...revealing his Roman citizenship.

Acts 22:22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live." **23** And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, **24** the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. **25** But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?" **26** When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen." **27** So the tribune came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" And he said, "Yes." **28** The tribune answered, "I bought this citizenship for a large sum." Paul said, "But I am a citizen by birth." **29** So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.

2. ...acknowledging his mistakes.

Acts 22:30 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. **22:1** And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." **2** And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. **3** 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?" **4** Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" **5** 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.'"

3. ...creating division amongst his opposition.

Acts 23:6 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." **7** And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. **8** For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. **9** 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?" **10** 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.

Jesus provides ultimate peace when we face anxiety

Remember...

1. ...he is the source of comfort, commendation, and hope.

Acts 23:11 *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. ...he has overcome the world.

John 16:33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

3. ...he is near and listening.

Phil. 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.* **5** *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;* **6** *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* **7** *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

4. ...he cares for you and promises an end to trials.

1Pet. 5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,* **7** *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.* **8** *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* **9** *Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.* **10** *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1. What are you facing in life right now that is producing anxiety? Which of the above truths about Jesus help to provide peace in your anxious moments? Consider memorizing one of the passages so that you are better equipped when fear or anxiety strike.

2. How do Jesus' presence and promises help ease any nervousness surrounding sharing your testimony (BEFORE/HOW/AFTER)? Continue to work on your framework and be praying for those in your life that need Jesus.

SONGS

HOSANNA (PRAISE IS RISING)
FIRM FOUNDATION (HE WON'T)
O COME TO THE ALTAR
IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

ALTAMONT PROGRESS REPORT

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BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$54,179.07
2025 Year to Date Giving: \$1,329,363.57
2025 Giving vs Need: \$249,836.43 Below Need
Altamont Expansion Fund: \$240,459.79
Please refer to this weeks newsletter for the latest budget information or email admin@vbc.online.

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

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