

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 4, 2007

Passage: Acts 25

Memory Passage: Psalm 31:14-15

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 25:1-4.** Who is the new Roman ruler of the province to replace Felix (Acts 24:27)? What is *the first thing* he does? What does this tell you about his attitude toward the Jews?
- (b) When he comes to Jerusalem and meets with the priests, what is the main concern that the priests have?
- (c) What are some *legal* reasons why their request might be honored? *Where* had the “crime” taken place? *What kind* of “crimes” was he accused of (Acts 23:28-29)?
- (d) What were some *political* reasons why the Roman ruler would be willing to do what they ask (Acts 24:7; Acts 25:9)? What did the Jewish leaders ask for (Acts 25:3)?
- (e) What did Festus decide (Acts 25:4)? Why (Proverbs 21:1; Proverbs 16:1; Ezra 7:27-28)? What does this teach us about *who* is in control of even the simple and obvious things in our lives?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 25:1-4 and Ezra 7:27-28. Discuss the sovereignty of God in the decisions of rulers. How does His sovereignty give us confidence even when non-believers are in power? What are we told to do for our rulers (1 Timothy 2:1-4)? Take some time together to pray for your political leaders.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 25:4-8.** How quickly do the Jewish leaders come to Caesarea (Acts 25:26)? What does this tell you about how much they wanted to get rid of Paul?
- (b) What kinds of accusations did they bring against Paul (Acts 25:6)? How had the Jews treated Jesus (Mark 14:56-57)?
- (c) What did Jesus warn his disciples in John 15:18-27? Why do people hate believers? How should we respond when they do hate us (John 15:26-27)?
- (d) What does Jesus mean in Luke 6:26? Why would this happen? How does Jesus tell his disciples to respond (Luke 6:27-35)?
- (e) How does Paul defend himself in Acts 25:8?
- (f) *Family:* Acts 25:4-8 and Luke 6:26-35. Why do some people hate believers? Are there people who dislike you because you are a follower of Christ? How should we respond to them? Pray for them that they might see the love of the Father in you.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 25:9-10.** Why does Festus suggest moving the trial to Jerusalem? Why is Paul concerned about this?
- (b) How long had Paul been waiting in prison (Acts 24:27)? Why? Read Philippians 1:12-14. What was Paul’s attitude toward having to spend all this additional time in prison without a trial?
- (c) What does Paul say about his willingness to die in Acts 25:11? What does this tell us about the secret of Paul’s contentment and composure in this situation?
- (d) Read Philippians 1:19-24. Summarize Paul’s attitude toward all that happened to him? What was his one desire in everything?
- (e) Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Where did Paul’s joy come from—an expectation of release or confidence in God?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 25:9-10 and Philippians 1:12-14 and 1:21. Talk about God’s timing on things. Is God ever late? Discuss how God’s “delays” might be God’s opportunities for us. Pray that you might trust God’s timing in your life (Psalm 31:14-15).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 25:10-12.** How does Paul avoid this “simple solution” suggested by Festus? Should he have waited on God and not appealed? Should he have gone willingly to Jerusalem and trusted God?
- (b) Does God’s sovereignty remove the need for personal responsibility? What action did the believers in Acts 4:24-29 take when they were persecuted? How did Paul look at prayer and God’s sovereignty (Philippians 1:19-20; Ephesians 6:18-19)?
- (c) What is the relationship between God’s sovereignty and wise actions (Nehemiah 4:7-9, 16-20; Daniel 11:32)?
- (d) What wise actions does Paul take in Acts 25? What are some other times that Paul appeals to the right use of legal means (Acts 22:25-29; 23:27; 21:39; 16:35-40)?
- (e) Is it ever right for a Christian to use legal means for their lives? Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-9. Is this related to all situations or only to a certain type of situation? What principles would you have for deciding when it was appropriate to use legal means?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 25:10-12 and Nehemiah 4:16-20. Does trusting in God mean that we do *nothing*? What kinds of things *should* we be doing in difficult situations? Pray that you will have *wisdom to act* in ways that are pleasing to God.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Psalm 31.** How many of the things that David mentions would also be true of Paul in his situation? Make a list of them.
- (b) What is David's confidence in Psalm 31:14-15? How was this also true in Paul's life?
- (c) Look at Psalm 31:19. *In whose presence* does David mention "trusting" in God? *When* does the believer receive the fullness of God's reward (Hebrews 10:34; 1 Peter 1:4-5)?
- (d) Does David give evidence of any doubts or struggles in this Psalm (Psalm 31:22)? How did he handle these (Psalm 42:5, 11)? Do believers sometimes go through periods of doubt and struggle because we are not trusting God's timing?
- (e) What is David's encouragement to the saints (Psalm 31:23-24)? What reason does he give for this encouragement? What does he say that the Lord will do for those who trust the Lord?
- (f) *Family:* Read Psalm 31. Discuss some of the difficult situations that David was in. Is your first response to such situations always a godly one? How should we handle our doubts and struggles? Pray for someone that is struggling through a difficult time.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 25:1-12 again. What is the situation that Paul is now facing? For how long have his rights been ignored? How would you react in a similar situation? Have you ever had a time when someone hated you without a reason? Spend some time praising God for His faithfulness in every situation and pray that those who come to church discouraged might be encouraged by God and His Word.

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PASSAGE: Acts 25

Trusting God

"... I do not object to dying..."