

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **April 11, 2021** sermon, "The Informant." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 23:12-35) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN GOD MAKES A PROMISE HE CAN USE . . .

1. Opposing forces to achieve his purposes. (12-15)
 - a. Unbelieving Jews were completely opposed to Paul, but God used their actions.
 - b. God had made a specific promise to Paul. Namely (23:11) . . .
 - i. To preserve his life (even through a long and dark "night").
 - ii. To bring him to Rome in order to testify about Jesus.
 - c. God used the angry actions of opponents to (eventually) bring Paul to Rome.
 - i. Your future is as bright as the promises of God.
 - ii. No event, power or government can supersede God's sovereign promises.
 - iii. There simply are no "ifs" in God's sovereign will.
2. Unlikely people to achieve his purposes. (16-22)
 - a. God uses a child, Paul's nephew, to protect and preserve Paul's life.
 - i. Do not minimize or underestimate anyone's influence over your situation.
 - ii. God may use children, newcomers and surprising people to accomplish his will.
 - b. This evil plot was necessary in order to move Paul from Jerusalem to Caesarea.
3. Governmental leaders to achieve his purposes. (23-35)
 - a. Whether seemingly good or evil, no human government is sovereign.
 - b. Paul's religious opponents have increased his audience to include Felix, the governor.
 - i. Felix secured Paul's immediate physical safety.
 - ii. Felix (eventually Festus) guarantees (and pays for) Paul's passage to Rome.
 - c. An evil and unbelieving governor cannot resist serving God's sovereign purposes.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Where do you feel opposed? In what way is the opposition surprising and heartbreaking? (NOTE: It's likely that those now committed to killing Paul are his former Pharisee classmates.) How might God use an opposing force to refine your expectations?
2. Based on #1, above: If Paul had equated God's will with personal freedoms, his whole world would have crashed when he got arrested, but he did not. Paul realized that God is sovereign even when all of his personal freedoms were not merely threatened, but gone. Discuss.
3. Based on #2, above: How has God used an unexpected conversation, text, phone call or email to encourage or protect you? How did God use the interaction to cause progress or growth in your life? Discuss: "There are no ifs in God's will."
4. Based on #3, above: The issue is not whether a governor appears wicked or good. The issue is whether God's servants will remain faithful to bear witness about Jesus regardless of personal and governmental opposition. God will use all governors for his glory and to fulfill his promises. Your "safe passage" to "Rome" is absolutely secure. Discuss.