

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **May 23, 2021** sermon, "After the Examination." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 25:23-26:1) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE WAIT UPON GOD, WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES FOR . . .

1. The significant encounters God might arrange. (25:23)
 - a. Paul has now waited in jail, wrongly accused, for two years.
 - i. While kings and governors seem to be in control of Paul's fate . . .
 - ii. Paul's time of isolation and waiting was really a time of preparation.
 - b. In all your waiting, prepare wholeheartedly for God to keep all of his promises.
 - i. God uses suffering and waiting to teach us wisdom, and to grow our faith.
 - ii. Get ready for the day when every eye will see God fulfill his Word.
2. The slow processes God could use. (25:24-27)
 - a. Paul was told at his conversion (30 years ago) that he would bear witness to kings and suffer greatly in Christ's name (Acts 9:15-16).
 - b. Paul was told (2 years ago) that he would bear witness about Jesus in Rome (23:11).
 - c. We like things that go fast. We are in a hurry, but God is not.
3. The strategic opportunities God will use. (26:1)
 - a. Paul has had two years to practice his speech. What will he say when he testifies?
 - b. What will you say? Are you rehearsing your words? Praying for opportunities?
 - c. Prepare while you wait, because God will certainly keep his promises.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Paul has used delays and even a physical assault to position Paul before a king (Festus, Agrippa and Bernice). How has God used bad and unchosen circumstances to give you an opportunity to share the good news about Jesus Christ?
2. Based on #2, above: Paul had no idea how long his imprisonment would endure. His life was put on "pause." When Festus and Agrippa summoned him, he was prepared to bear witness to Jesus Christ faithfully and cheerfully. What slow process are you enduring right now? Who seems to be calling the shots? Are you using the time to prepare to cheerfully speak of Jesus?
3. Based on #3, above: Paul is bold and faithful, but he waited until Agrippa invited him to speak. Have you ever forced Jesus into a conversation before a hearer was ready to hear? What did you learn from that encounter?
4. Interact with this summary: "God can use injustice, court procedures, broken dreams, broken relationships and medical diagnoses to prepare his people to bear witness about Jesus Christ, especially when the waiting has been faithfully invested, knowing that God will eventually keep his every promise." What promise are you waiting on God to fulfill?