

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **August 29, 2021** sermon, "The Promise and the Kingdom." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 28:23-30) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE PROMISE OF GOD'S KINGDOM, NOTE . . .

1. The divisions that are inevitable. (23-24)
 - a. When you emphasize God's authority, you will find yourself in conflict with those who emphasize earthly authorities. Hold closely! God reigns.
 - b. Paul shows his Jewish listeners through a careful explanation of the Old Testament that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets. (Gen 3:15, 12:3, 49:8-12; Is 53; 2 Sam 7)
 - i. Some believed (are convinced).
 - ii. Some disbelieved.
2. The contrasts that are discernable. (25-28)
 - a. Paul's key statement: the Jews will reject Jesus as Messiah.
 - i. They will "hear but never understand."
 - ii. They will "see but not perceive."
 - b. Many gentiles will clearly see that Jesus is Messiah. Many will listen.
3. The opportunities that are available. (30-31)
 - a. Paul did not view political kings or kingdoms, unfair accusations, government-sanctioned beatings or lengthy "house-arrests" as hindrances to the gospel.
 - i. We spend so much time and energy lamenting governmental overreach.
 - ii. As long as Paul remained faithful, he viewed every problem as an opportunity.
 - b. Keep "welcoming people," "proclaiming the kingdom," and "teaching about Jesus." (31)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Can you confidently proclaim that Jesus is God's Messiah? Can you base that proclamation on the Word of God and show people where "the Bible says so"? Where would you go to show someone that God's servant would be a person? (Gen 3:15) For all nations? (Gen 12:3) A re-uniter? (John 17:3) and a Death-defeater? (Psalm 16:10, 1 Cor 15:4) Are you fully convinced and aware that Jesus alone saves all who trust him?
2. Based on #1, above: The "sword" of all earthly kingdoms is in the shadows. (Remember the picture we saw?) That means that they are temporary and periphery and cannot save anybody. But the Word of God is in the light and guides us to the light. What does it look like to emphasize and trust the Word of God, and give up trusting earthly government?
3. Based on #2, above: Some will see but never perceive Jesus or the implications which accompany completely trusting him. Is your life and mission on point with Paul's statement that, "[the gentiles] will listen"? How could your prayer life and relational life more fully adhere to this guiding hope: the gentiles (including my children, my neighbors and friends) will listen?
4. Based on #3, above: Paul stopped putting any hope at all in earthly government. He did not get worked up about mistreatment. To him, even imprisonment was not hindrance to the gospel's freedom. Do you think Christians today live as if the gospel is unhindered? Why? Why not?