

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acts Bible Reading Plan

You are invited to read along in the book of Acts each week, using the YouVersion Bible App. Click this QR code to connect to a Bible Reading Plan for Acts, that will also have a short daily devotional with it. We will be teaching and preaching Acts 23 today, and then you are encouraged to read Acts 24 this week.



Parents Night Out

This Friday, February 16, from 5-8 pm, NewDay kids are invited to spend a fun evening together while parents enjoy an evening on their own. Dinner will be provided. RSVP to melinda@newdaycov.org.

Double Baby Shower

NewDay Ladies are invited to a Double Baby Shower honoring the upcoming arrival of Baby Inselman (Jon & Shealeigh) and Baby Mussell (Jacob & Abby). We'll be celebrating on Saturday, March 9, at 10 AM at the Cabin. Registry details can be found in the weekly email.

NEWDAY WEEKLY EMAIL

If you would like to receive NewDay's Weekly Email, with information about upcoming community opportunities, write your name and email here, rip it off, and leave this at the Offering Table in the back.

NAME

EMAIL



CONTACT

Email:
info@newdaycov.org



ADDRESS

The Izaak Walton Cabin
937 7th Ave NE
Rochester, MN 55906



ONLINE

Website:
www.newdaycov.org



SUNDAY WORSHIP GATHERING

"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'"
Isaiah 41:13

NEWDAY COVENANT CHURCH



DISCIPLESHIP

Growing into the mission of Jesus



NEWDAYCOV.ORG

February 11, 2024
Pastor Kari Jacott
Dividing and Conquering

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 23:1-11

Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day." 2 At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"

4 Those who were standing near Paul said, "How dare you insult God's high priest!"

5 Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.'"

6 Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead." 7 When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

9 There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. "We find nothing wrong with this man," they said. "What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" 10 The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

NOTES

SERMON QUESTIONS

Paul faced trial and imprisonment, and had to be experiencing quite a bit of stress in the midst of it all! We also see the LORD giving him strength and courage throughout. How do you see him responding in this chapter in the interaction with the Jewish leadership? Compare his response to Jesus' response when faced with similar pressure and situation: John 18:19-24; Luke 22: 47-71; Mark 14:53-65; Matthew 26:57-67

Paul kept his message consistent when he was questioned about his why- it was always about Jesus and "testifying to the resurrection." Often when we are questioned about our "why we follow Jesus" or our beliefs as a Christian, we can go on the defense, and lose sight of how the resurrection has given us hope for this life and the life to come. When you are asked about your "why I follow Jesus," by non-Christians, what have you said, or what do you usually say?

Paul used the tactic of divide and conquer when he was before the Sanhedrin- their differences about the afterlife became the tool he shrewdly used to divert their attention from him, to each other. They were really passionate about these beliefs, to the extent that it led to physical violence. Where do you see the church becoming divided, and forgetting about the common denominator- the main thing- our faith in Jesus Christ, being a tool for separating people, and causing them to act in ways that are not loving, or reflecting our identity as God's children, and resulting in our not being able to be effective in spreading the Good News about Jesus?

What elements do you see missing from this scene in Acts, between the Sadducees and Pharisees, that could have prevented the violence and fighting?

What elements are needed in the church to have healthy and respectful discourse over matters where there is disagreement?

Will you commit to praying for our church: for continued unity as brothers and sisters in Christ?

Will you commit to praying for the churches in the United States, in this next election cycle especially: for unity in the body of Christ?

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