

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acts Bible Reading Plan

You are invited to read along in the book of Acts each week, using the YouVersion Bible App. Scan 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 24-25 today, and then you are encouraged to read Acts 26 this week.



New Mailing Address

NewDay has moved out of the office at 822 South Broadway. Our new mailing address is PO Box 5806, Rochester, MN 55903.

Chili Cook-Off

It's back!! On Sunday, March 3, the competition heats up as the Chili Cook-Off returns! Bring your best chili to the potluck on Sunday, March 3, then we'll all have the opportunity to vote for our favorites by donating cash and coins. All funds raised from the Chili Cook-Off go towards our upcoming trip to visit the Addis Ketema CarePoint in Awassa, Ethiopia.

Praying Together

Each Sunday, we meet in the lower level of the Cabin at 8:45 am to pray. All are welcome.

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

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ADDRESS

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ONLINE

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SUNDAY WORSHIP GATHERING

"Return to the Lord your God,
for He is merciful and
compassionate, very patient, full
of faithful love, and ready to
forgive."
Joel 2:13

NEWDAY COVENANT CHURCH



DISCIPLESHIP

Growing into the mission of Jesus



NEWDAYCOV.ORG

February 18, 2024
Pastor Kari Jacott
When Opportunity Knocks

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 24

24 Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. 2 When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: "We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. 3 Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. 4 But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.

5 "We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect 6 and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. 8 By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him."

9 The other Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true. 10 When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: "I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. 11 You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. 13 And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. 14 However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, 15 and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. 16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

17 "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. 18 I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. 19 But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. 20 Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— 21 unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

22 Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." 23 He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.

24 Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." 26 At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

27 When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

NOTES

SERMON QUESTIONS

How we view adversity and difficulty in life is essential to how we will embrace challenges. God allowed Paul to have more time to testify about Him, and the Way of Jesus, using imprisonment and the Roman trial system to his advantage.

As you consider this, what examples from your own life do you have, where God used a challenge or difficulty in your life to give you a platform to make Him known, or testify about Him?

Paul was invited to have conversations and share with Governor Felix. Felix represents someone in power who also possessed curiosity about the Way, and seemed to enjoy learning from Paul. He also becomes uncomfortable when Paul brings up themes about death, the resurrection from the dead, self control, righteousness and the judgment to come.

When we think about the themes Paul was speaking on, why do you think Felix became afraid and uncomfortable?

As you wrestle with the same themes Paul presented before Felix, what also causes discomfort or fear for you as you read this passage?

Where do you experience hope and encouragement in this passage, and strength?

As you follow Jesus, and practice habits that encourage self control, living in right ways before God, how does Jesus give you help and guidance?

What did Paul have that Felix didn't have in regards to the topics of Resurrection and Judgment?

Today, what can you be confident of because of Jesus' death and resurrection, when you consider your own mortality, and our fears of judgment, and what is on the other side of the grave?

May you find your confidence in God, Jesus' love for you, and His sacrifice on our behalf. He is enough. If you still have doubts about this, ask a friend to pray for you, or talk to Pastor Kari, or another brother or sister in Christ. We are also here to encourage, clarify and help one another when we have doubts or fears.

See John 3:16-17; 1 John 1:5-10; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 5

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