



ACTS 28:23-31

TRUSTING GOD'S
GRACE IN TRYING TIMES

MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY (28:23)

²³ WHEN THEY HAD APPOINTED A DAY FOR HIM, THEY CAME TO HIM AT HIS LODGING IN GREATER NUMBERS. FROM MORNING TILL EVENING HE EXPOUNDED TO THEM, TESTIFYING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM ABOUT JESUS BOTH FROM THE LAW OF MOSES AND FROM THE PROPHETS.

- MANY JEWISH LEADERS AND JEWS CAME WHO WERE INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT PAUL'S VIEWS CONCERNING JESUS
- PAUL OPENED THE OLD TESTAMENT AND SHOWED THEM JESUS
 - JOHN 5:39-40
 - JOHN 5:45-47

MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY (28:23)

- PAUL SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY LOOKING AT SCRIPTURES THAT POINTED TO AND FOUND THEIR FULFILLMENT IN THE COMING, WORK, AND REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST
 - THE JEWS LIKED OPPORTUNITIES TO PUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE ON DISPLAY
 - BOTH PAUL AND THE JEWS KNOW THE SCRIPTURE, BUT PAUL KNOWS THE AUTHOR AND THE OBJECT, JESUS CHRIST
- THE LORD ENABLED PAUL TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES
 - “EXPOUNDED” – ATTEMPTING TO SHOW THE CLEAR MEANING OF THE TEXT
 - “TESTIFYING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM ABOUT JESUS” – PAUL GAVE TESTIMONY OF HOW THE REIGNING AUTHORITY OF JESUS, BY GOSPEL GRACE, MADE A DIFFERENCE IN HIS UNDERSTANDING AND HOW THE TRUTH TRANSFORMED HIS LIFE
 - JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, AND WE NEED TO SHARE HOW THESE SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS APPLY TO OUR LIVES
- READING AND STUDYING TO ESTABLISH A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE, OLD AND NEW, IS A WORTHWHILE, LIFELONG ENDEAVOR FOR FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND EVANGELISM
 - 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

HARD HEARTS ARE A REDIRECTION NOT A DEAD END (28:24-29)

²⁴ AND SOME WERE CONVINCED BY WHAT HE SAID, BUT OTHERS DISBELIEVED.

- SOME OF THESE JEWS CAME TO FAITH, AND MOST OF THE OTHERS DID NOT
- SUCH A DIVISION AMONG THE JEWS REGARDING THE GOSPEL WAS NOT UNCOMMON

²⁵ AND DISAGREEING AMONG THEMSELVES, THEY DEPARTED AFTER PAUL HAD MADE ONE STATEMENT: "THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS RIGHT IN SAYING TO YOUR FATHERS THROUGH ISAIAH THE PROPHET: ²⁶ " 'GO TO THIS PEOPLE, AND SAY, "YOU WILL INDEED HEAR BUT NEVER UNDERSTAND, AND YOU WILL INDEED SEE BUT NEVER PERCEIVE." ²⁷ FOR THIS PEOPLE'S HEART HAS GROWN DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY CAN BARELY HEAR, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED; LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND TURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

- ISAIAH 6:9-10

- ISAIAH WAS SENT TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WHOSE SPIRITUAL HEARTS, EYES, AND EARS ARE UNRESPONSIVE TO THE TRUTH AND THE CALL TO REPENTANCE
- PAUL IS SAYING THAT THE PRESENT GROUP OF JEWS IN ROME IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE SAME NATIONAL PROBLEM THAT HAS PLAGUED THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE PAST
 - THE PEOPLE HEAR THE TRUTH AND THE CALL TO REPENTANCE, BUT THEY FAIL TO RESPOND
 - THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS CLEANSING, FORGIVENESS, AND REIGNING AUTHORITY, ARE PRESENTED, BUT THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD AND DO NOT RESPOND

HARD HEARTS ARE A REDIRECTION NOT A DEAD END (28:24-29)

- ROMANS 3:9–18
- HOW BAD IS THE DEPRAVITY OF JEWS AND GENTILES OUTSIDE THE SAVING LIFE OF GOD?
 - THEY ARE TOTALLY DEPRAVED
 - THEIR REJECTION OF THE SALVATION AND REIGNING AUTHORITY OF JESUS REVEALS THE HOPELESSNESS OF THEIR CONDITION
- IS THERE HOPE?
- JOHN 6:63

HARD HEARTS ARE A REDIRECTION NOT A DEAD END (28:24-29)

28 THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN TO YOU THAT THIS SALVATION OF GOD HAS BEEN SENT TO THE GENTILES; THEY WILL LISTEN."

- JEWS ARE NOT COMPLETELY EXCLUDED
 - MANY WILL REJECT THE GOSPEL
 - SOME WILL RECEIVE THE GOSPEL
 - ROMANS 11:5–6
- AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOSPEL IS BEING SENT TO THE NATIONS WHERE THE PROMISE IS MADE THAT **THEY WILL LISTEN**

HARD HEARTS ARE A REDIRECTION NOT A DEAD END (28:24-29)

- THE LITTLE PHRASE, “*THEY WILL LISTEN*,” IS THE CONFIDENCE WE TAKE WITH US WHEN SHARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS WITH OTHERS
 - THE PROMISE THAT “*THEY WILL LISTEN*” IS WHAT WE ARE TO ANTICIPATE WHEN WE SHARE
 - THE GOSPEL MUST BE SHARED
 - ROMANS 10:14–15
- THE PREACHING PAUL REFERS TO HERE IS NOT A SERMON BUT THE GOSPEL SHARED BY BELIEVERS IN JESUS
 - WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH SOMEONE?
 - WE NEED TO BELIEVE THE PROMISE THAT “*THEY WILL LISTEN*” TO THE GOSPEL WE SHARE — NOT ALL, BUT SOME WILL LISTEN
 - JOHN 6:37
 - JOHN 6:44

WHEN IN ENEMY TERRITORY BECOME A GOSPEL OUTPOST (28:30-31)

³⁰ HE LIVED THERE TWO WHOLE YEARS AT HIS OWN EXPENSE, AND WELCOMED ALL WHO CAME TO HIM, ³¹ PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TEACHING ABOUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL BOLDNESS AND WITHOUT HINDRANCE.

- PAUL'S RENTED ACCOMMODATIONS BECAME A PLACE THRIVING WITH MINISTRY
- PAUL HAD A WELCOMING AND HOSPITABLE HEART FOR THE CAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST
- WHEN PEOPLE CAME, THEY HEARD PAUL SHARE THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, WHOSE RULING LORD AND SAVIOR IS JESUS CHRIST
 - PAUL SHARED WITH HOLY SPIRIT-EMPOWERED BOLDNESS
 - BOLDNESS IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD PRAY FOR
 - ACTS 4:29-31
 - PAUL ALSO SHARED FREELY
- EVEN THOUGH PAUL IS BEING TREATED UNJUSTLY, HE KEEPS HIS EYE ON THE GOAL

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- WHAT WOULD HELP YOU TO DO A BETTER JOB OF MAKING THE MOST OF GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES?
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT HARD HEARTS ARE A REDIRECTION, NOT A DEAD-END?
- IN WHAT WAYS IS KNOWING THAT SOME PEOPLE WILL LISTEN AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU?
- WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE THIS STORY OF GOSPEL ADVANCEMENT?



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TRUSTING GOD'S
GRACE IN TRYING TIMES