

11-28-21

Acts 22:22-30.

Acts 22:17-21 (Read first as a reminder)

Acts 22:22-23. (Read)

Too often individuals don't like the that others are different than them. Even more so, those that have changed direction (opinion, beliefs) in their lives.

Too often, when individuals feel an injustice has occurred, they respond with violence, and driven to a place of murder.

Words, what someone believes and or says lead to anger, malice, and hatred is real.

Anyone can be triggered.

Truth is hard to swallow, often ignored, denied, and rejected. Too many refuse to accept the truth.

I. This type of spirit is NOT of God. (22-23)

- It is not God's ways!
- The scripture says that they listened to him until this word.... What word? When Paul stated that Jesus sent him to reach the Gentiles.
- Paul was stirring up trouble by telling God's truth. That God loved the Gentiles, they were His people, and He had a plan for them too. Paul wasn't stirring up or angering the people with teachings, beliefs, convictions, or standards that fit his agenda. This was a truth that even he rejected before to a place that he murdered people.
- God's salvation is offered to all people. God is for all people. These Jews that Paul spoke to couldn't hear this truth.
- Peter confirmed to Cornelius how the Jews felt about the Gentiles.

Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Acts 10:28

In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Genesis 22:18.

Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' " ***Isaiah 49:6***

- The gospel truth can be offensive! It's a truth worth dying on that hill.
- Christian brother and sisters, we must make sure we don't respond like the Jews did.

II. Irrational situations can cause people to react irrational.

- **Read verses 24-25.**
- The commander sees all the craziness and orders Paul to be taken into the prison and beaten.

- What was Paul guilty of? Paul was speaking to the crowd in Hebrew, and the scripture says, “examine under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him.”
- Even as brutal as the Romans where, this commander was taking things into his own hands.
- Have you ever reacted irrationally? What do you do when something doesn’t make sense?

1. Cry out to Jesus.

Proverbs 18:10, The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe

Psalms 34:15-16, The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psalms 34:4, I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.

2. Cling to God’s Word.

Psalms 119:130, The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

Psalms 119:105, Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

3. Cast all our cares (fears) on Him.

Psalms 55:22, Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

Psalms 56:3-4, Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. 4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

4. Confess that your inabilities and God’s ability to remove fears.

Isaiah 41:10, Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you,

Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’

Joshua 1:9, Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

5. Call a trusted Christian friend.

James 5:16, Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- Recognize that irrational fear does not originate with God.

1 Timothy 1:7, For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

III. Cooler heads prevail.

• Read verses 25-30.

- Man, o man have I had to learn this the hard way.
- Paul had an ace up his sleeve, and he plays it perfectly. He is a Roman citizen and was protected under Roman law.

- I can picture Paul, cool as a cucumber, as he is being tied up and being made ready to be beaten. “Excuse me, is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?”
- This serves as a reminder that God’s ways may not be accepted. And when God’s ways are rejected, chaos, confusion, and responding irrational will ensue.
- But followers of God must stay Christ minded.
- The commander and his soldiers “withdrew from him”, they knew that they had stepped in it.
- Brothers and sisters, sometimes we step in it. Sometimes the right thing to do is apologize and shut our pie holes.

Conclusion

Be aware that God’s ways are not our ways. And we as believers can twist and strain to make it seem like we are doing things God’ ways when we are just doing them our ways.

We are to be about the gospel! We must stop fighting over those things that divide us and focus on the bigger picture.

Are you born again?

Are you reaching out? Giving the gospel?