

Sermon Text Discussion 3/18/2018

Acts 23:12-25:27 – “How to Live as a Faithful Witness to Christ” by Drew Hunter

Overview

Four marks of a faithful witness:

1. Trust through Adversity (23:12-35)
2. Courage under Pressure (24:1-27)
3. Persistence with the Gospel (24:22-27)
4. A Life of Integrity (25:1-27)

Quotations

“The two messages of the gospel are (1) come and rest, and (2) go and suffer.” –Drew Hunter

“If Christians adopted Paul’s tone, there would be a new conversation about Christianity in America.” –Drew Hunter

“I cannot keep silent, nor would it be proper, so many favors and graces has the Lord deigned to bestow on me in the land of my captivity.” –St. Patrick

Understanding & Application

- 1) With reference to the first quote above, Drew said that a “Christianity” that proclaims only one of the two messages is no Christianity at all. What are some examples of each error? Which is more prevalent?
- 2) Knowing that sharing the gospel may result in suffering, we often have two sinful responses: (1) isolating ourselves in a Christian bubble, or (2) never speaking of Christ with our unbelieving friends. Which of these is the greatest temptation for you?
- 3) Paul had a special promise from Jesus that helped him trust through adversity (Acts 23:11). What promises do we have to stand on in adversity?
- 4) The second quote above refers to Paul’s calm response to the accusations brought against him before Felix in Acts 24:1-17. Do you agree? Have you ever responded with calmness and grace when the world would have expected anger or retaliation? Read Romans 12:17-21 and discuss how it applies.
- 5) Reflect on Paul’s being imprisoned unjustly for two years by a man hoping for a bribe, but using that time to share the gospel with him whenever possible (Acts 24:22-27). Have you ever been tempted to give up actively sharing the gospel? What circumstances especially lead to such temptations? What are some keys to having courage and persistence instead?
- 6) A life of integrity is central to our calling as Christians and to the effectiveness of our witness. When the Holy Spirit convicts you of an area of hypocrisy, what should you do about it?
- 7) Drew urged prayer for three things: opportunities to share Jesus, courage, and the Holy Spirit’s power to stand as a faithful witness. Spend some time praying together for these things.