

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 53: A Dead Man Named Jesus

### 1. Our text today doesn't allow us to forget the foundations of our faith.

- ✓ The last 6 chapters of Acts have Paul in Roman custody, but he's there for a reason, to bear witness of Christ to his fellow countrymen and world leaders.
  - ✓ Paul is caught in political crack, but God uses the pressure to squeeze out of him some beautiful things like books of Bible such as Philippians and Ephesians.
  - ✓ Could God have fixed this situation no matter how much political red tape was involved? Of course! But He doesn't and it's for a purpose.
  - ✓ **Never forget that no matter where God has you there is a purpose in it, seek that purpose.**
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- ✓ Paul in Chapter 25 is before his second governor of Palestine in as many years who goes by the name of Festus.
  - ✓ Festus quickly and correctly evaluate the situation with Paul and especially the reason why the Jews have such a beef with him.
  - ✓ **Acts 25:18-19** and Paul reaffirms the real issue before Festus, Agrippa, and his wife Bernice in **Acts 26:8**
  - ✓ This real is the issue, the **risen Lord**.
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- ✓ The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a **virgin's womb and an empty tomb**.
  - ✓ Jesus entered our world through a door marked "No Entrance" and left through a door marked "No Exit".
  - ✓ It's the door marked "no exit" that validates all the rest.
  - ✓ Paul wouldn't be where he is if the resurrection were not true!
  - ✓ He'd just be one more person following one more dead leader trying to promote that leader's now dead agenda.
  - ✓ It's because of that resurrection power that they hold Paul prisoner as was correctly evaluated by Festus.
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### 2. Our freedom was earned by Jesus' sacrifice, but it was validated by His resurrection.

- ✓ **His resurrection confirms a number of things:**
    - 1) Tells us who Jesus is:
      - ✓ Jesus predicted this in **John 2:18-21**
      - ✓ Paul makes this even more clear: **Romans 1:3-4** (not that He wasn't the Son of God before, but His resurrection proves it).
      - ✓ Jesus proves He's the Son of God and the same as God Himself by rising from the dead.
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2) It tells us He's up to something:

- ✓ If Jesus is dead there's no problem treating Him as just a good teacher and a fine example.
  - ✓ He can make no demands on me at all as a dead person.
  - ✓ **He's as inert as the dirt He's turned into if un-resurrected.**
  - ✓ But if He's alive and not just alive but risen from the dead, then death no longer having power over Him forever, then I must ask, "What He wants of me".
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- ✓ In Revelation, John saw a vision of the current ministry of Jesus. He saw Jesus dressed as a high priest and standing in the midst of Seven Golden lampstands.
  - ✓ Those stands represent His church and His role as High priest is to tend those lamps.
    - He puts fresh oil into those who are losing their fuel.
    - He snuffs out those churches who will not obey Him.
- 3) Means He's coming back: **Acts 17:30-31**
- 4) Means we have the Power to live for Him: **Romans 6:4**
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