

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Acts 24 – Ted

Read All of Acts 24 aloud together.

Think about the hypothetical situation that we started with on Sunday. You are before a teacher or professor, a group of coworkers, a boss, etc, and you're asked to tell about the Christian faith. Where do you start? What angle do you use? You question yourself: What exactly is a faithful presentation of the gospel?

Paul is before the governor and his wife, summoned to a private meeting where he is asked to speak on the Christian faith. He begins with God's nature, then he speaks of human nature, and then judgment. He reasons with Felix about...

- Righteousness - *the quality and character of upright behavior* (BDAG).
- Self-Control - *the restraint of a person's impulses and desires.*
- Judgment - *God's coming condemnation on all unrighteousness.*

The result of Paul's message is that Felix leaves startled and alarmed.

Our Challenge on Sunday is that we would be people who *Tell the Truth*.

Discussion Questions:

1. What components make up a faithful presentation of the gospel? Is it necessary that we talk about judgment?
2. What component of the gospel message are you tempted to soften or maybe give half truths?
3. One temptation is to never talk about the law of God. Some Christians, (antinomian or anti-law) propose that since we are under grace there is no need to talk of Law. Some Christians (Legalists) are bent on talking about the Law so much that there is no grace in their message, which is no gospel at all. How do we avoid these extremes? Here's a good verse (1 Tim. 1:8).

Conclusion: Always come back to the cross. The place where God's perfect love, grace and justice meet. Spend time praying, giving thanks, and singing about the glorious cross where God's righteousness, grace, and judgment are poured out. It's here the great exchange happens. Christ takes our sinfulness and gives us his righteousness. Wow!