

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 10.03.2021

UNSTOPPABLE: ACTS 23:12-35

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

God has a unique kingdom purpose for you. A specific purpose for your life – a specific and unique “contribution” that only you can make. A contribution completely dependent on God that authentically displays His love towards others. “Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.” (1 Cor 12:7, MSG). God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can impact the lives of others. And we can be confident, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6). God is unstoppable in completing that work in us. In the same way, God was unstoppable in completing the work started in Paul. Although Paul faced many trials and tribulations, the Lord Jesus suddenly stood beside him and said, “Be of good cheer” (be of good courage, cheer up and do not be afraid). As Paul had testified for Christ in Jerusalem, so he must also testify in Rome. Paul’s desire to go to Rome seemed impossible when he was arrested, but Jesus said Paul would still bear witness at Rome. As we “trust and lean upon the Lord, His hand will be on you and He will accomplish the destiny He has for you”. Let’s get into our study...

1. Share a specific purpose God has created you for.
2. Share how God has been unstoppable in completing that specific purpose in your life.
3. What stood out to you during this week’s study?

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 23:12-22

Paul must have slept with new peace and confidence, but as soon as it was day some of the Jews met to plot Paul’s death. Over 40 Jews joined in a conspiracy to murder Paul. They even went as far to invoke a curse upon themselves, that they would not eat, not even taste anything until they had killed Paul. They then developed a scheme to request additional information from Paul. As he would come down, they would ambush him. Unfortunately for the conspirators, they did not know Jesus had already promised to send Paul to Rome and their plot against Paul ultimately failed.

1. The Lord knows how to protect His own. Who are the Lord’s own? (Ephesians 1:4-5). Does God protect His own today? (Romans 8:28)
2. Are Christians promised a life on earth free from difficulty? Why or why not? (1 Cor. 11:23-28, John 16:33)
3. The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deut. 31:6). In the same way, the Lord went before Paul and was with him. Paul’s nephew “happened” to overhear the conspirators plot and warned Paul. God was doing a supernatural work through the natural. One of the thrills of eternity will be to learn of the danger’s believers did not see, but which God saw and kept from them. How does this encourage you?
4. God can use anyone at any age to accomplish His unstoppable will. How does this challenge us to find and carry out our Kingdom purpose? (1 Cor. 12:7).

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

5. When Paul heard from his nephew, he instructed him to tell the Roman Commander. The Commander received the information and asked he tell no other what was revealed to him. Describe some of the characteristics this young man must have had.
6. God often works His supernatural ways in the natural. God got Paul out of the plot supernaturally using natural means. Describe a time you may have experienced God working supernaturally while using natural means.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 23:23-35

The Roman Commander did not waste any time. He immediately had two centurions get 200-foot soldiers ready to go to Caesarea, along with 70 cavalry, and 200 other soldiers from another class. By 9:00 that night they were to be on their way to the Roman capital of Palestine, about 55 miles northwest of Jerusalem. Paul was then safely brought to Felix, the Roman governor of the province. The tribune provided a letter to Felix with an explanation of how Paul was seized by the Jews and was going to be violently killed by them. When they learned Paul was a Roman citizen, they rescued him. The letter, as an official Roman report to the governor, declared Paul was innocent of any crime worthy of punishment.

7. The centurions, mentioned in the New Testament were always shown in good light. In fulfilling God's purpose in our life, how might we replicate the characteristics of a centurion?
8. God used the military to save Paul and to fulfill His purpose. God is unstoppable in completing His purpose. How does this give you confidence God will complete the work He started in you?
9. The letter given to Felix declared Paul was innocent of any crime worthy of punishment. When Felix read the letter, he understood the reasons for sending Paul to him, as well as the extra precautions for protecting Paul on the journey to Caesarea. The letter spoke for itself. How might your "letter" speak for itself and declare you innocent of any crime worthy of punishment?

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

The Bible says, "For we are God's masterpiece. He created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago" (Eph. 2:10, NLT). This verse helps understand that if we want to find God's mission or purpose in life, we first need to look at the masterpiece God has made us to be. We need to look to God and ask him to help us discover our uniqueness. Once we discover who we are, then we can start figuring out what God has planned for you. Maybe it is to testify for Christ in San Diego, or maybe it is to testify in Rome, as Paul did. Either way, the main point in all of this is that God's servants are unstoppable!

1. Have you looked to God and ask him to help you discover your uniqueness?
2. Have you discovered what God has planned for you?
3. What progressive steps can you take this week to advance the plan God has for you?

PRAYER

Lord, praise be to the Lord our God, who leads us and guides us in all ways. Help us to see how the uniqueness of who we are and how we can be used for your purpose and glory. Show us areas we need to surrender to put only You first in our life. Tell us the plans You have for us, declutter what should not be there, and lead us to minister exactly how You designed us. Amen

"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).