



The last half of the book of Acts reveals the amazing story of how the Jesus' community became a global movement, and it reveals keys to how it has remained so. There is so much to apply as we explore how we can “proclaim the kingdom of God with all boldness and without hindrance.”

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** In Acts chapters 23 and 24 we find Paul on trial due to some false accusations. Things were so bad that his accusers plotted to have him killed (23:12-15). Have you ever had your reputation or character unfairly attacked? How did it make you feel? How did you respond?

**2** The Jews keep trying to make the case against Paul that he is a threat to the civic stability of the Roman empire. But Paul dodged the side issues and went straight to the heart of the matter. **THE REAL ISSUE IS...** “*Is Jesus’ resurrection for real?*” **Read Acts 23:6-10.** Why does Paul change the focus of the situation at hand to his hope in the resurrection? Why did this create such division between the Pharisees and Sadducees?

**3** Rick noted that “*Christianity without a resurrection is not missing the last chapter; it no longer has a story at all.*” **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; 12-19.** Why is faith in a Jesus who did not rise from the dead useless or insufficient? What are some of the things that would be different about both history and your own life if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

**4 JESUS’ RESURRECTION MEANS... that God is on the throne.** What example did Rick share of how God’s sovereignty was at work in this story (hint: it involved Paul’s nephew)? What encouragement

does that give you regarding God (see **Proverbs 21:30**)? How should an empty tomb make us full of confidence in the sovereignty of God?

**5 JESUS’ RESURRECTION MEANS... that fear is on the run.** **Read Acts 23:11.** How would this alleviate any fear Paul might have had? Follow up discussion: Rick then mentions that “*fear changes teams*” (**Read Acts 24:24-25**). Why did Felix become afraid?

**6 JESUS’ RESURRECTION MEANS... that judgment is on the way.** What are some reasons Paul might have thought talking about judgment was an important part of talking about “*believing in Christ Jesus*”? Jesus talked about judgment too. **Read John 5:28-30.** Why should the thought of judgment fill followers of Jesus with hope instead of dread?

**7** Paul reminds us in **Romans 8:18-24** that one day God will put everything death has touched back together. Because of that we can **cope with hope!** With that in mind, what ways does the truth about the death and resurrection of Jesus determine how you live out your faith in the meantime? Share one practical thing you can do this week.

