Faith, Hope, and Love Lesson 26 Mar 31 Acts 25: 1-12 Appeal to Caesar

Q1. (Faith) By appealing his case to Caesar, St. Paul assures that he will be sent to Rome, thus fulfilling the Lord’s command to bear witness to Himself in Rome even though it means his martyrdom. What courage and faith must it take to be willing to give up your life for the faith?

Acts 23:11

11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome.”

Acts 25:11-12

11 I appeal to Caesar.”

12 Then Festus, after conferring with his council, replied,   
“You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go.”

Q2. (Hope) What hope do the words of Jesus bring to St. Paul when he is put on trial before Jews and pagan?

Acts 25:6-7

6 After spending no more than eight or ten days with them, he went down to Caesarea,   
and on the following day took his seat on the tribunal and ordered that Paul be brought in.

7 When he appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem surrounded him and brought many serious charges against him, which they were unable to prove.

Matthew 10:17-19

17 But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts   
and scourge you in their synagogues,

18and you will be led before governors and kings   
for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans.

19 When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak   
or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say.

Q3. (Love) What love must St. Paul have had for the Lord and the people he preached to continue his evangelical missions knowing that his martyrdom was looming ever nearer?

Acts 19:20-21

20 Thus did the word of the Lord continue to spread with influence and power.

21 When this was concluded, Paul made up his mind to travel through Macedonia   
and Achaia, and then to go on to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there,   
I must visit Rome also."

Acts 20:25

25 “But now I know that none of you to whom I preached the kingdom   
during my travels will ever see my face again.

Acts 23:11

11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome.”

A1. St. Paul’s experience from his conversion onwards has been the continued presence of the Lord. He has been instructed by the risen Lord, Himself, not by other Christians. St. Paul’s faith is the bond of trust on gains from a long association with another, only greater because his relationship is with Jesus.

Galatians 1:11-12

11 Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin.

12 For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it,   
but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ

A2. From the time of his conversion on the road to Damascus onward, St. Paul has had the presence of the Lord. We see that relationship throughout Acts in in his letter. St. Paul’s hope is a certaintity.

Acts 20:22-23

22 But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem.   
What will happen to me there I do not know,

23 except that in one city after another the Holy Spirit has been warning me   
that imprisonment and hardships await me

A3. To continue his evangelization of the world in the face of increasing opposition and the certainty must have taken a very close relationship with Jesus the Lord and a great love for the people who were being brought to Jesus for salvation. I have served with soldiers who put their lives at risk standing in an open truck bed loading machine guns during an ambush, knowing it was their duty. Their courage was beyond comprehension. So it must have been for St. Paul. But, my soldiers had the hope that the bullets would miss them (correctly during my command tour), St. Paul knew his mission would end in death.