

Acts of Jesus 53 Opportunity Awaits notes

Have you ever hesitated at an opportunity?

--We are going to read about someone this morning who not only hesitated but missed the most important opportunity in his life.

--Acts 23:12-16; 23-27; 24:5-6; 10-27 Paul makes his defense and Testimony.

--How sad: never is there any indication that Felix ever accepted Christ.

--Felix and Drusilla lives read like a soap opera: Felix along with his brother were slaves in the household of Antonia the mother of Claudius who became Caesar. She gave them their freedom and great favor; so much so that Felix gets appointed to a lucrative and cushy of Governor of Judea. His first wife was the daughter of Mark Antony and Cleopatra. He seduced his third wife Drusilla the daughter of Herod Agrippa I, who had James executed, while she was married to her first husband, the governor of Syria, who was at that time about 16 years old. She later has an affair with Titus Vespasian who is the Roman general who destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70. She and Felix have a son who is killed in Pompeii by the famous eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79!!!

--How crazy can a life be?!—Your life might read like a soap opera, but the Good News is that it doesn't matter how messed up you are God is accepting a forgiving every person who will place their faith in Jesus.

--Acts 16:31: this man was faced with death but he reached out and cried out to a Savior and didn't miss his opportunity.

--This was not the case for Felix: V. 25 but it was never again as convenient.

--He even knew quite a bit about Christianity: V. 22a, but it didn't do him a bit of good and it will not for us either...we must personally place your faith in Jesus Christ.

--A missed opportunity with eternal consequences.

1. How's are you at seizing the opportunities God is bringing your way?

Bear Bryant, Alabama's famous football coach, told of a time in his early days at Kentucky when his team fumbled the ball in front of the bench, and in the resulting scramble someone kicked over a box containing eight more footballs. A free-for-all ensued, with **Tennessee recovering 5 balls** and **Kentucky only 4**. The officials gave possession to Tennessee. The moral: When a ball comes bouncing your way, grab it.

--How are you doing at diving on those loose balls that God brings your way?

--Eph. 5:15-16

--Are you making the most of every opportunity??

Every day we all face opportunities to grow and make a difference for the kingdom of God:

1. Opportunity to set our alarms a little earlier and get up a spend time with God and interceding for the world around us.
--Or we can wake up late and miss that opportunity.
2. Opportunity to read Christian books that can enrich us spiritually or we can fill our heads full of books and novels that in many case contain things that the Bible plainly commands us to avoid.
3. Opportunity to get our finances in order so we can give generously to the things of God and be good stewards of what He's entrusted to us, or we can squander it on temporary things.
4. Opportunity to be faithful to church and Bible study to grow together with others in our faith, or we can forsake the assembly.
5. Opportunity to talk to a lost person about our Savior, or busy ourselves with less important things.

--I fear that many believers have gotten caught in the pursuit of lesser things: Call ourselves believers and followers of Jesus, yet other than going to church when we can and leading relatively moral lives; **our goals are not much different than the world around us.**
--Little or no effort given to advancing the kingdom of God.

One more example and then I'll be done:

--If we spend just 2 hours a day watching T.V. that equals 1 month of T.V. watching.

--Over a 30 year period, that equals 2.5 years of T.V. watching!

--Think of what you could do with that time!

--30 days a year given to serve God in your church, missions, advancing some Christian cause or outreach.

Eleven miles off the east coast of Scotland, in the North Sea, stands the Bell Rock Lighthouse. It has endured the ferocious onslaught of the North Sea's violent storms since 1811. It rests upon less than one acre of solid rock. That small reef is covered by seawater for 20 hours of every day. The builder of the lighthouse, Robert Stevenson and his band of 65 skilled artisans, had only four hours each day to chink away the stone and gouge a foundation in the rock. **As a result of this painstakingly patient work, the 115-foot-tall lighthouse is still in use today.**

In a similar way, to invest our lives in things that matter, to build into people's lives. We've got to take advantage of our window of opportunity.

Common reasoning says wait till later in life to deal with God.

God says something completely different: "Now is the acceptable time, today is the day of salvation."