Acts of Jesus 54 Day in Court notes

Acts 24:22-27; Acts 25:1-12; Revelation 20

One of the most often recurring scene in the book of Acts is the scene of a court room.

--Beginning with Peter and John on trial for healing a paralyzed man at the gate called beautiful all way to the end as Paul heads to his hearing before Caesar -- there are a total of no less than 7 different court proceedings in seven different courts

--**In some ways you could say the book of Acts is an account of Christianity being on trial.**

--The bottom line is that you can condemn Christianity, you can execute it, you can attempt to legislate against it, but you cannot stop it.

1. All these court proceedings in Acts brings to mind another court room and another judge before whom we will all stand someday

In Syracuse, NY, Donald Drusky took God to court in 1998. The one-time employee of **USX Corporatio**n blamed God for failing to rectify the wrong done to him when he was **fired in 1968**. Drusky waged a 30-year battle with the steelmaker, before deciding to take legal action against God. **The suit reads**: The defendant, God, is the sovereign ruler of the universe and took no corrective action against the leaders of his church and his nation for their extremely serious wrongs, which ruined the life of Donald S. Drusky. For damages, Drusky asks for the return of his youth, the skill of a great guitarist, and the resurrections of his mother and pet pigeon. Drusky hoped that God would fail to appear in court, allowing him to win the case by default. (Drusky's case was declared frivolous and thrown out by the Syracuse court.)

--Everybody wants their day in court, and the good news or not so good news is that we're going to get it.

--Everyone wants justice and they are going to get it, but it may not be what they want after all.

2. I want us, because of all the court appearances in Acts, to consider our own court appearance.

--We all have an appointment that we will be keeping **Heb. 9:27 You may be early to this but you will not be late!**

--"Christians won't be judged" -- is this true? **Rom. 14:10-12**

--Christians will not be judged for sin because their sin was judged on the cross: God rendered judgment, passed sentence and executed the death penalty on Christ for our sake who trust in Him.

--Nevertheless, we will be judged for what we did with our eternal life down here.

--Our works will be tested by fire and either endure to the praise and glory of God or they will be destroyed to our shame.

--We will either be entrusted with much because we were faithful with little down here or we will not be entrusted.

3.This is broad topic that we don't have time to cover properly, but for our purposes, we are going to consider where everyone is heading if they do not trust Christ.

--All sin will be judged, there'll be no escaping it: either your sins will judged in Christ and He will pay for them or you will be judged for your own sins and you will pay for them.

--There will be no escaping the inevitable.

Let's quickly look at that scene: **Revelation 20**

Enter the Judge -- **V. 11** – Instead of "all rise" it will be "all run" but there will be no place to hide.

Enter the Prosecution – Scripture says that either Jesus will be you advocate on that day or your adversary (the devil won't be there—you'll have a much fiercer adversary that day).
--The Son of the Living God, the One who men have denied, cursed and ridiculed will stand at the right hand of Judge with the marks of cross visible in His body.

A Summons will be sent out – **V. 13** – There will be no such thing as a no show that day.

Evidence will be presented – **V. 12** – God made eternal laws and sin is the breaking of those laws -- eternal laws demand eternal punishment.

The verdict will be announced and the sentence will be rendered--there will be only two options – life or death.

The only ones to escape this verdict will be: **V. 15, John 3:36**

In the spring of 2002, I left work early so I could have some uninterrupted study time before my final exam in the Youth Ministry class at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri. When I got to class, everybody was doing their last-minute studying. The teacher came in and said he would review with us before the test. Most of his review came right from the study guide, but there were some things he was reviewing that I had never heard. When questioned about it, he said they were in the book and we were responsible for everything in the book. We couldn't argue with that. Finally it was time to take the test. "**Leave them face down on the desk until everyone has one, and I'll tell you to start**," our professor, Dr. Tom Hufty, instructed. When we turned them over, to my astonishment every answer on the test was filled in. My name was even written on the exam in red ink. The bottom of the last page said: "**This is the end of the exam. All the answers on your test are correct. You will receive an *A* on the final exam. The reason you passed the test is because the creator of the test took it for you. All the work you did in preparation for this test did not help you get the *A.* You have just experienced…grace**." Dr. Hufty then went around the room and asked each student individually, "**What is your grade? Do you deserve the grade you are receiving? How much did all your studying for this exam help you achieve your final grade?**" Then he said, "Some things you learn from lectures, some things you learn from research, but some things you can only learn from experience. "You've just experienced grace. **In the future, if you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, your name will be written down in a book, and you will have had nothing to do with writing it there. That will be the ultimate grace experience."**