Acts of Jesus 56 A Dead Man Named Jesus notes

Acts 25:18-19; 26:8

--The last 6 chapters of Acts have Paul in Roman custody, but he's there for a reason: to bear witness of Christ to his fellow countrymen and world leaders.

--Paul is caught between a rock and hard place because on the one hand the Romans aren't going to execute him because he's done nothing wrong, but, on the other, they aren't going to let him go because keeping him at least soothes some of the tensions between the Romans and the Jews.

--He's caught in political crack, but God uses the pressure to squeeze out of him some beautiful jewels namely some of the books of Bible like Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

--Couldn't God have fixed this situation no matter how much political red tape was involved? Of course! But He doesn't and it's for a purpose.

--**Never forget that no matter where God has you there is a purpose in it—seek that purpose.**

Paul in Chapter 25 is before his second governor of Palestine in as many years who goes by the name of Festus (hard for me to take this guy seriously because his name reminds of the red-necked deputy sheriff on Gunsmoke!)

--Despite his name he does quickly and correctly evaluate the situation with Paul and especially the reason why the Jews have such a beef with him.

--**Acts 25:18-19** and Paul reaffirms the real issue before Festus, Agrippa, and his wife Bernice in **26:8**

He states the ultimate issue—a **risen Lord**.

The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a **virgin's womb and an empty tomb**.

Jesus entered our world through a door marked "No Entrance" and left through a door marked "No Exit."

--It's the door marked "no exit" that validates all the rest.

--Paul wouldn't be there if the resurrection was not true—

--He'd just be one more person following one more dead leader trying to promote that leader's now dead agenda.

--This situation is different and the validity of the resurrection is demonstrated in the power of the church winning people to Christ despite the Jews great efforts.

--It's because of that resurrection that they held Paul prisoner as was correctly evaluated by Festus.

Jesus' resurrection confirms many things:

1. Tells us Who He is:

--Jesus predicted this in **Jn. 2:18-21** – "If you want proof of who I am and what I've been sent to do…"

--Paul makes this even more clear: **Rom. 1:3-4** (not that He wasn't the Son of God before, but His resurrection proves it.)

--Jim Jones claimed to be the Messiah and then lead all his followers to their death

--David Koresh signed his name "Jehovah Koresh" and then "Omnipotently" burned himself and all his followers to a crisp.

--Jesus proves He's the Son of God and the same as God Himself by

raising Himself from the dead.

2. His resurrection means He's up to something:
--If Jesus is dead there's no problem treating Him as just a good teacher and a fine example.
--There is no dynamic and no one for me to answer to since He's dead and gone.
--He can make no demands on me at all.
--If He is still dead, **He's as inert as the dirt He's turned into.**

But if He's alive and not just alive but risen from the dead—death no longer having power over Him forever, then I must ask the question, "What does HE want of me".

--In Revelation, John saw a vision of the current ministry of Jesus. He saw Jesus dressed as a high priest and standing in the midst of Seven Golden lampstands.
--Those stands represent His church and His role as High priest is to tend those lamps: He puts fresh oil into those who are losing their fuel and He snuffs out those churches who will not obey Him.
--Wouldn't it be great if every church asked Him to fill them with the oil of His Spirit?

3. Means He's coming back: **Acts 17:30-31**

In ***The Shepherds Home*** in Wisconsin they have a problem with smeared windows. This home for the severely disabled teaches its residents about Jesus. And ever since they taught that Jesus is coming back the superintendent there says, "**some of them will go to the windows and press their noses against the glass, and look for Him**."
--Severely handicapped but smarter than most of us.

4. Means you have the Power to live for Him: **Rom. 6:4**

5. Means we cannot see the world the same anymore.

"What one sees depends on where one sets up one's shop. Mine is at the entrance of the empty tomb."