

LIVING WITH PURPOSE

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

(PART 2)

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

1. WHEN IT COMES TO OUR PLANS
2. WHEN IT COMES TO WHO WE MINISTER TO
3. WHEN IT COMES TO HOW OTHERS TURN OUT

- BE GLAD THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO ACCORDING TO OUR PLANS

- ^{NAS} **ISAIAH 55:8** "FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS," DECLARES THE LORD. ⁹ "FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.

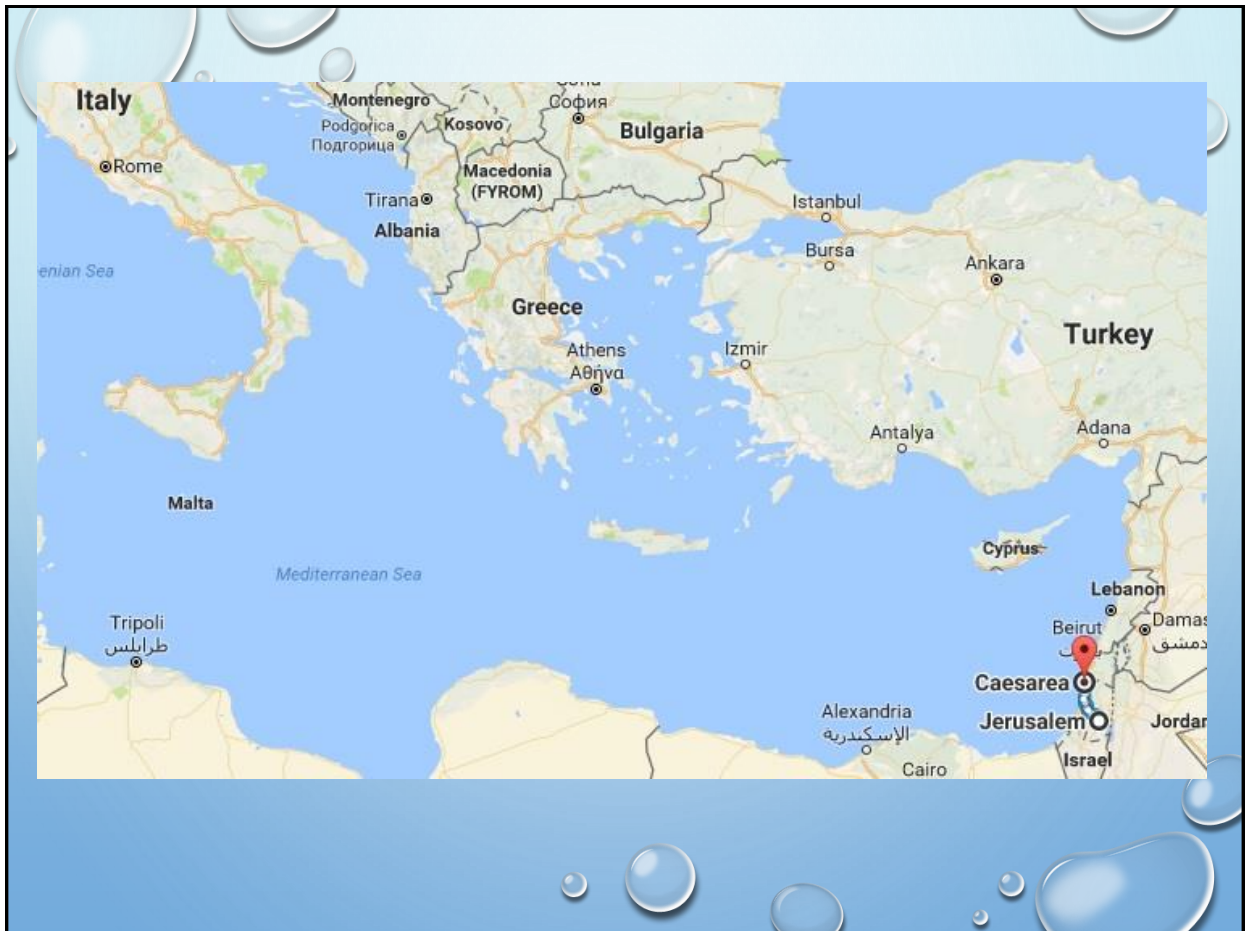
- PLAN PRUDENTLY BUT REST IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- ^{NAS} **JAMES 4:13** COME NOW, YOU WHO SAY, "TODAY OR TOMORROW, WE SHALL GO TO SUCH AND SUCH A CITY, AND SPEND A YEAR THERE AND ENGAGE IN BUSINESS AND MAKE A PROFIT." ¹⁴ YET YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE LIKE TOMORROW. YOU ARE *JUST* A VAPOR THAT APPEARS FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN VANISHES AWAY. ¹⁵ INSTEAD, YOU *OUGHT* TO SAY, "IF THE LORD WILLS, WE SHALL LIVE AND ALSO DO THIS OR THAT."

Acts 23:33, Arriving In Caesarea

Acts 23:33 When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him.







**PAUL BEFORE FELIX
ACTS 24:1-27**

THE CHARGES (24:1-9)

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 24:1** FIVE DAYS LATER THE HIGH PRIEST ANANIAS WENT DOWN TO CAESAREA WITH SOME OF THE ELDERS AND A LAWYER NAMED TERTULLUS, AND THEY BROUGHT THEIR CHARGES AGAINST PAUL BEFORE THE GOVERNOR... ⁵ "WE HAVE FOUND THIS MAN TO BE A TROUBLEMAKER, STIRRING UP RIOTS AMONG THE JEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD. HE IS A RINGLEADER OF THE NAZARENE SECT ⁶ AND EVEN TRIED TO DESECRATE THE TEMPLE; SO WE SEIZED HIM.

PAUL'S DEFENCE (24:10-21)

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 24:12** MY ACCUSERS DID NOT FIND ME ARGUING WITH ANYONE AT THE TEMPLE, OR STIRRING UP A CROWD IN THE SYNAGOGUES OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE CITY. ¹³ AND THEY CANNOT PROVE TO YOU THE CHARGES THEY ARE NOW MAKING AGAINST ME... ¹⁸ I WAS CEREMONIALLY CLEAN WHEN THEY FOUND ME IN THE TEMPLE COURTS DOING THIS. THERE WAS NO CROWD WITH ME, NOR WAS I INVOLVED IN ANY DISTURBANCE. ¹⁹ BUT THERE ARE SOME JEWS FROM THE PROVINCE OF ASIA, WHO OUGHT TO BE HERE BEFORE YOU AND BRING CHARGES IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST ME. ²⁰ OR THESE WHO ARE HERE SHOULD STATE WHAT CRIME THEY FOUND IN ME WHEN I STOOD BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN--

TURN FOR THE BETTER

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 24:22** THEN FELIX, WHO WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE WAY, ADJOURNED THE PROCEEDINGS. "WHEN LYSIAS THE COMMANDER COMES," HE SAID, "I WILL DECIDE YOUR CASE." ²³ HE ORDERED THE CENTURION TO KEEP PAUL UNDER GUARD BUT TO GIVE HIM SOME FREEDOM AND PERMIT HIS FRIENDS TO TAKE CARE OF HIS NEEDS.

TURN FOR THE WORSE

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 24:24** SEVERAL DAYS LATER FELIX CAME WITH HIS WIFE DRUSILLA, WHO WAS A JEWESS. HE SENT FOR PAUL AND LISTENED TO HIM AS HE SPOKE ABOUT FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. ²⁵ AS PAUL DISCOURSED ON RIGHTEOUSNESS, SELF-CONTROL AND THE JUDGMENT TO COME, FELIX WAS AFRAID AND SAID, "THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW! YOU MAY LEAVE. WHEN I FIND IT CONVENIENT, I WILL SEND FOR YOU."

REPEATING U-TURNS

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 24:26** AT THE SAME TIME HE WAS HOPING THAT PAUL WOULD OFFER HIM A BRIBE, SO HE SENT FOR HIM FREQUENTLY AND TALKED WITH HIM.



EVERYTHING FLIES APART

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 24:27** WHEN TWO YEARS HAD PASSED, FELIX WAS SUCCEEDED BY PORCIUS FESTUS, BUT BECAUSE FELIX WANTED TO GRANT A FAVOR TO THE JEWS, HE LEFT PAUL IN PRISON.



COPING WITH THE UNEXPECTED

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ^{NAS} **LUKE 11:1** AND IT CAME ABOUT THAT WHILE HE WAS PRAYING IN A CERTAIN PLACE, AFTER HE HAD FINISHED, ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES SAID TO HIM, "LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY JUST AS JOHN ALSO TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES." ² AND HE SAID TO THEM, "WHEN YOU PRAY, SAY: 'FATHER, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME. ³ 'GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD. ⁴ 'AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, FOR WE OURSELVES ALSO FORGIVE EVERYONE WHO IS INDEBTED TO US. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.'"

SEEKING GOD'S GLORY AND KINGDOM

- ^{NAS} **1 CORINTHIANS 10:31** WHETHER, THEN, YOU EAT OR DRINK OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.
- ^{NIV} **PHILIPPIANS 3:13** ...BUT ONE THING I DO: FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND AND STRAINING TOWARD WHAT IS AHEAD, ¹⁴ I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS.

- ^{NAS} **ROMANS 8:37** BUT IN ALL THESE THINGS WE OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. ³⁸ FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, ³⁹ NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING, SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.
 - 'FATHER, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME

PRAYING FOR NECESSITIES

- ^{NAS} **ROMANS 15:30** NOW I URGE YOU, BRETHREN, BY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND BY THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT, TO STRIVE TOGETHER WITH ME IN YOUR PRAYERS TO GOD FOR ME, ³¹ THAT I MAY BE DELIVERED FROM THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT IN JUDEA, AND *THAT* MY SERVICE FOR JERUSALEM MAY PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SAINTS;
 - GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

RECOGNIZING DEPENDENCE ON GOD

- ^{NAS} **2 CORINTHIANS 12:9** AND HE HAS SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS." MOST GLADLY, THEREFORE, I WILL RATHER BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY DWELL IN ME. ¹⁰ THEREFORE I AM WELL CONTENT WITH WEAKNESSES, WITH INSULTS, WITH DISTRESSES, WITH PERSECUTIONS, WITH DIFFICULTIES, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE; FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG.
- ^{NAS} **PHILIPPIANS 4:13** I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME.



THE PARABLE

- ^{NAS} **LUKE 11:5** AND HE SAID TO THEM, "SUPPOSE ONE OF YOU SHALL HAVE A FRIEND, AND SHALL GO TO HIM AT MIDNIGHT, AND SAY TO HIM, 'FRIEND, LEND ME THREE LOAVES; ⁶ FOR A FRIEND OF MINE HAS COME TO ME FROM A JOURNEY, AND I HAVE NOTHING TO SET BEFORE HIM'; ⁷ AND FROM INSIDE HE SHALL ANSWER AND SAY, 'DO NOT BOTHER ME; THE DOOR HAS ALREADY BEEN SHUT AND MY CHILDREN AND I ARE IN BED; I CANNOT GET UP AND GIVE YOU *ANYTHING*.' ⁸ "I TELL YOU, EVEN THOUGH HE WILL NOT GET UP AND GIVE HIM *ANYTHING* BECAUSE HE IS HIS FRIEND, YET BECAUSE OF HIS PERSISTENCE HE WILL GET UP AND GIVE HIM AS MUCH AS HE NEEDS.

THE POINT

- ^{NAS} **LUKE 11:9** "AND I SAY TO YOU, ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK, AND YOU SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED TO YOU. ¹⁰ "FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS, RECEIVES; AND HE WHO SEEKS, FINDS; AND TO HIM WHO KNOCKS, IT SHALL BE OPENED. ¹¹ "NOW SUPPOSE ONE OF YOU FATHERS IS ASKED BY HIS SON FOR A FISH; HE WILL NOT GIVE HIM A SNAKE INSTEAD OF A FISH, WILL HE? ¹² "OR IF HE IS ASKED FOR AN EGG, HE WILL NOT GIVE HIM A SCORPION, WILL HE? ¹³ "IF YOU THEN, BEING EVIL, KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM?"



CONCLUSIONS

1. EXPECT TROUBLE BUT TRUST JESUS

- ^{NIV} **JOHN 16:33** "I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS, SO THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE. IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT TAKE HEART! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."

2. TRUST HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

- ^{NAS} **LUKE 11:13** "IF YOU THEN, BEING EVIL, KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM?"

3. DESIRE GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE

- ^{ESV} **JOB 1:20** THEN JOB AROSE AND TORE HIS ROBE AND SHAVED HIS HEAD AND FELL ON THE GROUND AND WORSHIPED. ²¹ AND HE SAID, "NAKED I CAME FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB, AND NAKED SHALL I RETURN. THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HAS TAKEN AWAY; BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD."
- ^{ESV} **JOB 13:15** THOUGH HE SLAY ME, I WILL HOPE IN HIM; ...