



I. When hate spills out ...

- A. Injustice flows.
- B. The gospel ignites.

II. Jesus stands with His people.

Jesus stands with those who stand for Him.

- A. Protected to preach. (23:11)
- B. Persecution propels the gospel forward. (23:16-35)

How does this apply to me?

INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

**THE GOSPEL WHEN LIFE DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE**

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

For two years, Paul was held in prison without any cause. The plot against his life by unbelieving Jews in Jerusalem smoldered. Felix, the Roman governor, wanted a bribe from Paul and wanted the approval of those living in the province. When a new governor was appointed, he too wanted to do the Jews political favors.

Paul's life appeared to have no more purpose than that of a pawn in this religious and political game being played out between the Jews and the Romans. Days turned into months and years as he waited in jail.

Does the gospel, the good news, still work when life grinds to a seemingly meaningless halt? Where is God? Why doesn't He step in and get us out of the hopeless fix we are in?

We've all been there. Yet most of us have not faced the extremes that Paul was facing as he waited and waited. He must have wondered what the purpose of leaving him in jail was. He must have felt like a pawn, caught in the rip tides of self-centered politics and religion.

As you read, ask yourself how the gospel impacts our lives when nothing makes sense. When we feel discarded. When no answers come to the questions that keep turning in our heads.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 24 – 25:12

