

The Big Idea: You will follow your Lord, whoever he, she, or it may lead.

1.) Acts 23:1 // Paul's Good Conscience

- Does this mean Paul never sinned? Not at all! **Romans 7:14-25**
- How do you honestly make a statement like that and still have sin???
- **You make Jesus your LORD and not just your SAVIOR**
- What does it mean to submit to Jesus as Lord?
- “Lord” (Greek: *kurios*) literally means “Master” or “Authority” **Romans 10:9**
- **Salvation is not just “Jesus saved me from my sins.” It’s “Jesus PURCHASED me out of sin and now He’s my Master.”**
- **1 Corinthians 6:20** He *purchased* us! We belong to Him, not ourselves!
 - Article: [Jesus Paid Our Debt: Christ on the Cross](#)
- **Jesus as Lord means Living all of Life in Light of His Lordship!**
 - Every decision I base on what my Lord wants, not me
 - I obey His commands over my desires because He is Lord, not me
 - I react to people with His heart, not my own
 - I see and hear with His eyes and ears, not my own
 - *“Jesus is Lord. And if He’s Lord over all, it means Jesus is my Lord. That’s what you’re saying when you confess Jesus as Lord. You’re saying, “Jesus can call the shots for my life. Jesus can tell me how I should think about myself and about marriage and about the world. Jesus is the one who has all authority in Heaven and on earth. Not me. I am not an autonomous creature. I live to serve this Master.” ~Kevin DeYoung*
 - Think water skiing, tethered to a speedboat
- **Conversely, when Jesus isn’t your Lord and just your Savior, there is no room for a “good conscience” and you will not find any peace because you’re serving the wrong master.**
- If Jesus is your Savior, you are a new creation (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) and have been filled with the Spirit of God (**Ephesians 1:13-14**) and one of that Spirit’s jobs is to convict you of sin in your life. That’s why you feel miserable, uneasy and lacking peace when you make yourself Lord, do what you want, fulfill your sinful desires instead of Jesus’ holy desires.
- If you are a follower of Jesus and you have a bad conscience, there’s a reason why. You’ve made yourself, someone or something else your lord and master. Repent and walk away.
- Will you still stumble into sin if Jesus is your Lord? Yes! You won’t *practice* it: **1 John 3:4-10**

2.) Acts 23:2-5 // Paul begins his “Farewell Gospel Tour”

- By the end of Acts Paul has preached Jesus to:
 - Jewish leaders, Chief Priests, the High Priest, a Roman commander and his soldiers, 2 Roman governors, a king, and ultimately Nero (Caesar) the Emperor of the World
- Paul rebukes the High Priest. Was that sinful?
 - **Ecclesiastes 10:20** says don’t even think curses about your kings
 - **Jude 1:8** says evil men reject authority

- Ananias was not technically authority over him
- Also, prophets have been known to speak boldly against rulers **Isaiah 1:10, 23**
- Third, this is a man Jesus handpicked for salvation to write half of the New Testament and preach the gospel to the king of the world. I'm assuming his comments were ok...
- **Exodus 22:28** "Do not speak evil of the ruler of your people."
 - We do have authority over us (*i.e. President Obama, federal and state governments*)
 - We are disobedient and sinful when we disrespect their authority, like it or not
 - When politics is your lord instead of Jesus, your talk about government shows it
 - **The easiest way to tell if someone worships their political ideals instead of Jesus is to have a conversation with them and/or look at their Facebook.**
 - **Romans 13:1-2** be subject to government because God gave them authority
 - Is Jesus your Master or is government?

3.) Acts 23:6-10 // Historical Pharisees & Sadducees

- These were the two largest sects of Judaism (sort of like religious denominations)
- The Sadducees rejected Biblical teachings of Angels, that God would resurrect anyone from the dead, and that we have eternal souls that live after our bodies die.
- Paul played the Pharisee card to get them fighting each other
- Roman commander protected Paul (a Roman citizen) and brought him into the barracks

4.) Acts 23:11 // The Prince of Peace

- Jesus encourages Paul:
 - He says "take courage," a reminder that Jesus is all Paul needs
 - He tells Paul he has done a good job
 - He confirms all the difficult things Paul has faced to share the message of Jesus
 - He tells Paul He isn't done with him yet
 - He tells Paul He needs him in Rome. Translation: I will sustain you in Jerusalem
- Paul's Jesus is the same Savior that paid for you and if He's your Lord and Master:
 - You'll have trouble in life, but take heart, Jesus overcame the world! **John 16:33**
 - You were created in His image **Genesis 1:27**
 - He saved you for a purpose **2 Timothy 1:9**
 - He will work everything out for your good **Romans 8:28**
 - His grace is enough for you and in your weakness He'll make you strong! **2 Cor. 12:9**
 - He will sustain just like He sustains the world **Matthew 6:25-34**
 - This passage titled "The Cure for Anxiety" if sandwiched by:
 - **Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters" ('kurios' i.e. lord)
 - **Matthew 6:33** "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness" You won't have anxiety if you submit your life to Jesus as your Master
- He's your Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace **Isaiah 9:6**

5.) Acts 23:12-35 // A Tale of Two Plans

- Failed Plan:
 - 40+ Jews form a mob (*against Roman law*)
 - And plan to kill Paul (*without trying him in court, also against Roman law*)
 - They decided not to eat or drink until the deed was done
 - Paul's nephew overheard and told the Roman commander
- A Successful Plan:
 - Claudius Lysias, Roman commander of a barracks of 1,000 troops in Jerusalem
 - Ordered 470 soldiers to escort Paul at 9pm that evening to Caesarea and place him in the custody of the Roman governor Felix
 - This was GOD'S plan and fulfilled was Jesus told Paul that night
- How ironic that God would have 500 Roman soldiers escort Christianity's greatest "hero of the faith" to safety, and ultimately have Romans escort him to the feet of the Roman Emperor to preach the Good News of Jesus to him, the man that would years later snap and try to wipe Christians off the planet.
- **God is always in control and will always make a better Lord than you!**

Application:

1. Is Jesus your Savior? (We make awful saviors)
2. Is Jesus your Savior AND Lord?
3. What and/or who are other lords you're serving in life?
4. Repent of serving more than one master.
5. Submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus today!

Isaiah 58:11

The Lord will guide you always, He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your body. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.