

Episode 112

Those standing near Paul said to him, "Do you dare to insult God's high priest?" "I'm sorry, brothers. I didn't realize he was the high priest," Paul replied, "for the Scriptures say, 'You must not speak evil of any of your rulers.'"

- Acts 23.4-5

Writing letters like the ones that make up the New Testament was an extremely costly and time-consuming exercise. In addition, it is believed that the codex or scroll that the original letters were written on were purchased in a set size, so much deliberation would be needed when deciding what to include and what to leave out.

When we consider these details, we become far more aware of the importance of each line in each chapter, including these seemingly insignificant details about Paul's burst of anger against the High Priest. What is Luke trying to point out to us and his original reader Theophilus? As a man of high standing, was Luke trying to show Theophilus the humility and subjection that all those who call themselves Christ-followers hold themselves to? Was he highlighting the unjust treatment that Paul experienced willingly for the sake of the gospel? It's difficult to know for sure, however, what we do know is that at the very least, Luke was reminding us of God's standard for his people when it comes to our heart towards our leaders.

Here Paul quotes from the book of Exodus, which puts even more weight on this detail Luke has included. At the time when God gave his people the commands and precepts they were to live by, they had just been delivered from the most wicked ruler to ever walk the earth - and God's instruction to them was not to speak evil of any of their rulers...past, present and future leaders included.

Eish.

Can you imagine the campfire conversations? All there was to talk about was their slavery, the wickedness of Pharaoh, and how the Egyptians got what they deserved. However, God's instruction to them was not to speak evil of any of their rulers.

It's the same around our campfires. All there is to talk about is our government's ineptitude, the wicked political plundering of our country's resources, the shocking performance of our parastatal companies, and let's not forget the rampant racial discrimination. However, God's instruction to us is not to speak evil of any of our rulers.

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