

The Acts of the Apostles - Chapters 24-25 Study Questions

1. **Acts 24:1-27** How do you usually respond when you are falsely accused?

2. **Acts 24:5** To what does the Greek word “haireisis” refer?

In what way is the word applied, first, to the Pharisees and Sadducees and, second, to Christians?

Word Study: Sect (p. 247)

3. **Acts 24:5** How does the Catechism apply “Wounds to Unity” and distinguish between heresy, schism, and apostasy to present-day Protestants?

CCC 2089 *Incredulity* is the neglect of revealed truth or the willful refusal to assent to it.

"*Heresy* is the obstinate post-baptismal denial of some truth which must be believed with divine and catholic faith, or it is likewise an obstinate doubt concerning the same; *apostasy* is the total repudiation of the Christian faith; *schism* is the refusal of submission to the Roman Pontiff or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him."

CCC 817 In fact, "in this one and only Church of God from its very beginnings there arose certain rifts, which the Apostle strongly censures as damnable. But in subsequent centuries much more serious dissensions appeared and large communities became separated from full communion with the Catholic Church - for which, often enough, men of both sides were to blame." The ruptures that wound the unity of Christ's Body - here we must distinguish heresy, apostasy, and schism - do not occur without human sin: Where there are sins, there are also divisions, schisms, heresies, and disputes. Where there is virtue, however, there also are harmony and unity, from which arise the one heart and one soul of all believers.

CCC 818 "However, one cannot charge with the sin of the separation those who at present are born into these communities [that resulted from such separation] and in them are brought up in the faith of Christ, and the Catholic Church accepts them with respect and affection as brothers All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers in the Lord by the children of the Catholic Church."

CCC 819 "Furthermore, many elements of sanctification and of truth" are found outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church: "the written Word of God; the life of grace; faith, hope, and charity, with the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as visible elements." Christ's Spirit uses these Churches and ecclesial communities as means of salvation, whose power derives from the fullness of grace and truth that Christ has entrusted to the Catholic Church. All these blessings come from Christ and lead to him, and are in themselves calls to "Catholic unity."

4. **Acts 24:14–15** How much do you know about the Jewish background of Christianity? What can you learn about the Christian faith by investigating the faith of ancient—or even modern—Judaism?

5. **Acts 24:25** Why did Felix become alarmed when Paul spoke about the Christian message? Footnote p.248, **24:25 Felix was alarmed**

6. **Acts 24:25** Think of a time when you became uncomfortable about moving forward in your faith. What were you feeling and why?

7. **Acts 25:12** When a decision of yours starts in motion a process that cannot be stopped, what should be your spiritual attitude before God?

Philippians 1:19-21 (p.358) and Footnote **1:19 Spirit of Jesus and Turn out for my deliverance**

8. **Acts 25:23** Have you ever had to witness publically to your faith?

How did you handle the situation?

What lessons can you learn from the way Jesus—and, in this context, Paul—handled this kind of situation?

Footnote p. 358, **1:21 To live is Christ**