

# ***When the Gospel is on Trial***

PASTOR ZAC HESS • ACTS 21–28



**God empowers His  
witnesses in the most  
difficult circumstances.**



God's plan for Gospel advance  
includes persecution,  
suffering, and ridicule.





*Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves,  
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*

**Matthew 10:16**



*Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,*

**Matthew 10:17**



*and you will be dragged before governors and kings for My sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.*

**Matthew 10:18**



*When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.*

**Matthew 10:19**



*For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

**Matthew 10:20**



*Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,*

**Matthew 10:21**



*and you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

**Matthew 10:22**



*When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*

**Matthew 10:23**



*“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.*

**Matthew 10:24**



*It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*

**Matthew 10:25**



Christians must not cross the line of positive declaration.



A witness makes a wise and  
comprehensive testimony.





*Use your earthly citizenship  
for Gospel opportunity*





*Allow your life to  
complement your message*





*Testify to the facts of Jesus*





It is not enough for the skeptic, then, to simply dismiss the Christian teaching about the resurrection saying, 'It just couldn't have happened.' He or she must face and answer all these historical questions:

**Tim Keller**



Why did Christianity emerge so rapidly, with such power? No other band of messianic followers in that era concluded their leader was raised from the dead — why did this group do so?

Tim Keller



No group of Jews ever worshipped a human being as God. What led them to do it? Jews did not believe in divine men or individual resurrections. What changed their worldview virtually overnight?

Tim Keller



How do you account for the hundreds of eyewitnesses to the resurrection who lived on for decades and publicly maintained their testimony, eventually giving their lives for their belief?

Tim Keller



God gives resolve to  
His witnesses through  
His presence.





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witnesses in the most  
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