

Waiting in Jerusalem

Acts 23

Ch. 22 ends with Paul taken by a centurion and brought before the Sanhedrin to stand trial.

“Luke devotes as much space for Paul’s last few days in Jerusalem as he does any missionary journey.”

David L. Roper

### **1. Before the Sanhedrin – 23:1-10**

- 1: 1<sup>st</sup> order of business: who & why?
- 2: goal to punish and silence Paul
- 3: savage blow didn’t silence P; Jesus called Pharisees “whitewashed walls” Mt. 23:37
- 4,5: Ex. 22:28
- 6: Sad. the majority; Pharisees vocal minority
- 7: his words divided the audience
- 8: S: no res., angels, spirit. All in physical life; Pharisees believed in them all
- 9: Pharisees find nothing wrong in statement
- 10: 3<sup>rd</sup> time a Roman officer had to step in

### **2. Encouraging Vision – 23:11**

- “One of the darkest nights in the history of Paul.” G. Campbell Morgan
- Paul’s task not to convert but to preach.
- Paul was doubtful but God encouraged him that he would make it to Rome.

### **3. Murderous Conspiracy Exposed – 23:12-22**

- 12: God’s promise immediately tested
- 13: who?? Hellenistic Jews tried to kill Paul 2 decades earlier 9:29? Asiatic Jews that started riot days ago 21:27? Sad. from council 23:6-9?
- 14: plot required cooperation
- 15: plot: ‘apologize,’ bring Paul into open, 40 mingle, converge w/ hidden weapons
- 16: only certain reference to Paul’s family
- 17-19: must’ve had a concerned look
- 20-21: ready & waiting to put the plan into action
- 22: did not want the council to know he knew the plan before it happened

#### **4. Paul Taken to Caesarea – 23:23-35**

- 23: quickly put into action; 9pm; 470 soldier escort – ½ regiment
- 24: mount – horse? faster journey if mounted
- 25: letter: GK epistolé – standard pattern
- 26: 1<sup>st</sup> mention of commander's name; Lysias – Greek by birth
- 27,28: fascinating example of twisting truth for personal gain; no mention of P's heritage
- 29: only secular letter in NT; not to embarrass but to record
- 30: plan probably not fully known until Paul is safely out of harm's way
- 31: Antipatris – Aphek in OT; 1 Sam. 4:1; Herod the Great rebuilt
- 32: P retracing route taken 2 weeks before
- 33: must've been amazed at Agabus' prophecy
- 34: province: complicated to determine
  - 1) Cilicia – Roman province
  - 2) Paul – Roman citizen
  - 3) Offense occurred in Felix's province
  - 4) IF gov't made Jews go to Cilicia to bring their accusations against Paul, that would make them unhappy – 24:27
- 35: Praetorium: official HQ of Roman gov't

#### **Lessons:**

1. Jesus Christ died and rose from the grave. Denying this is foolish. Without this, we have no hope – 1 Corinthians 15.
2. Don't make a vow you cannot intend to keep.
3. Don't try to find every loophole to find a way to disobey God.

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