



“Be Courageous”

Acts 22:30-24:27

Study Guide #25 for the week of
July 24, 2022

Before the Sanhedrin - [Acts 22:30-23:11](#)

Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. When was the last time you said something that caused misunderstanding or conflict?
2. What bold claims did Paul make? ([23:1](#))
3. What order did Ananias give? ([23:2](#))
4. What did Paul say in reaction to the high priest’s illegal command? ([23:3](#))
5. Why did the high priest react so strongly to Paul’s statement about fulfilling his duty to God?
6. In what situations do you need to be careful with what you say?
7. What reminder can you use to help you be wise with your words this week?

Life Application Bible Notes

[22:30](#) Paul used his times of persecution as an opportunity to witness. Even his enemies were creating a platform for him to address the entire Jewish high council. If we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, we will see increased opportunities to share our faith, even in the face of opposition.

Chapter 23

[23:2-5](#) Josephus, a respected first-century historian, described Ananias as profane, greedy, and hot-tempered. Paul's outburst came as a result of the illegal command that Ananias had given. Ananias had violated Jewish law by assuming that Paul was guilty without a trial and ordering his punishment (see [Deuteronomy 19:15](#)). Paul didn't recognize Ananias as the high priest, probably because Ananias's command broke the law he was pledged to represent. As Christians, we are to represent Christ. If someone we know says, "I didn't know you were a Christian," we have failed to represent him as we should. We are not merely Christ's followers; we are his representative to others.

[23:6-8](#) The Sadducees and Pharisees were two groups of religious leaders but with strikingly different beliefs. The Pharisees believed in a bodily resurrection, but the Sadducees did not. The Sadducees adhered only to Genesis through Deuteronomy, which contain no explicit teaching on resurrection. Paul's words moved the debate away from himself and toward their festering controversy about resurrection. The Jewish council was split.

[23:6-8](#) Paul's sudden insight that the council was a mixture of Sadducees and Pharisees is an example of the insight that Jesus promises to believers ([Mark 13:9-11](#)). God will help us when we are under fire for our faith. Like Paul, we should always be ready to present our testimony. The Holy Spirit will give us the courage to speak boldly.

The Plot to Kill Paul - [Acts 23:12-22](#)

Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. What kinds of secrets did kids like to keep when you were growing up?
2. Who took an oath? Why? ([23:12](#))
3. When Paul's nephew heard about the plot, what did he do? ([23:16](#))
4. How was the young man able to go before the commander? ([23:17-18](#))
5. When might exposing a wrong require courage or sacrifice today?
6. When is it right for you to play the role of informant in correcting a wrong?
7. In what setting this week will you need to be prepared to stand up for the truth?

Life Application Bible Notes

[23:14, 15](#) When the Pharisee/Sadducee controversy died down, the religious leaders refocused their attention on Paul. To these leaders, politics and position had become more important than God. They were ready to plan another murder, just as they had done with Jesus. But as always, God was in control.

[23:16](#) This is the only biblical reference to a member of Paul's family. Some scholars believe that Paul's family had disowned him when he became a Christian. Paul wrote of having suffered the loss of everything for Christ ([Philippians 3:8](#)). His nephew was able to see him, even though Paul was in protective custody, because Roman prisoners were accessible to their relatives and friends, who could bring them food and other amenities.

[23:16-22](#) It is easy to overlook children, assuming that they aren't old enough to do much for the Lord. But this young man played an important part in protecting Paul's life. God can use anyone, of any age, who is willing to yield to him. Jesus made it clear that children are important ([Matthew 18:2-6](#)). Give children the importance God gives them.

Paul Transferred to Caesarea - [Acts 23:23-35](#)

Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. What safety precautions do you take when you go out at night?
2. What orders did the commander give to get Paul away from danger? ([23:23-24](#))
3. Who wrote a letter to whom? Why? ([23:25-30](#))
4. When the cavalry and Paul arrived, what did the governor do? ([23:33-35](#))
5. How did God protect Paul?
6. What "human means" does God use to protect His people?
7. As a Christian, what is one way you can protect the rights of the poor and weak?

Life Application Bible Notes

[23:23, 24](#) The Roman commander ordered Paul sent to Caesarea. Jerusalem was the seat of Jewish government, but Caesarea was the Roman headquarters for the area. God works in amazing and amusing ways. God could have used any number of ways to get Paul to Caesarea, but he chose to use the Roman army to deliver Paul from his enemies. God's ways are not our ways. Ours are limited; his are not. Don't limit God by asking him to respond your way. When God intervenes, things will work out much better than you could ever anticipate.

[23:26](#) Felix was the Roman governor of Judea from A.D. 52 to 59. This was the same position Pontius Pilate had held. While the Jews were given much freedom to govern themselves, the governor ran the army, kept the peace, and gathered the taxes.

[23:26](#) How did Luke know what was written in the letter from Claudius Lysias? In his concern for historical accuracy, Luke used many sources to make sure that his writings were correct (see [Luke 1:1-4](#)). This letter was probably read aloud in court when Paul came before Felix to answer the Jews' accusations. Also, because Paul was a Roman citizen, a copy may have been given to him as a courtesy.

The Trial Before Felix - [Acts 24:1-27](#)

Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. What do you admire most about your favorite political figure?
2. Who went to Caesarea? Why? ([24:1-8](#))
3. What did Felix do about Paul's case? ([24:22-23](#))
4. Why did Paul languish in prison for over two years? ([24:26-27](#))
5. How was Paul "caught in the system"?

Life Application Bible Notes

[24:1](#) The accusers arrived: Ananias, the high priest; Tertullus, the lawyer; and several Jewish leaders. They traveled 60 miles to Caesarea, the Roman center of government, to bring their false accusations against Paul. Their murder plot had failed ([23:12-15](#)), but they persisted in trying to kill him. This attempt at murder was both premeditated and persistent.

***Imprisonment in Caesarea:** Paul brought news of his third journey to the elders of the Jerusalem church, who rejoiced at his ministry. But Paul's presence soon stirred up the Jews, who persuaded the Romans to arrest him. A plot to kill Paul was uncovered, so Paul was taken by night to Antipatris and then transferred to the provincial prison in Caesarea.*

[24:2ff](#) Tertullus was a special orator called to present the religious leaders' case before the Roman governor. He made three accusations against Paul: (1) He was a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews around the world; (2) he was the ringleader of an unrecognized religious cult, which was against Roman law; (3) he had tried to desecrate the Temple. The religious leaders hoped that these accusations would persuade Felix to execute Paul in order to keep the peace in Palestine.

[24:5](#) While the charge that Paul was a troublemaker was insulting to Paul, it was too vague to be a substantive legal charge. "The Nazarenes" refers to the Christians—named here after Jesus' hometown of Nazareth.

[24:10ff](#) Tertullus and the religious leaders seemed to have a strong argument against Paul, but Paul refuted their accusations point by point. Paul was also able to present the Good News through his defense. Paul's accusers were unable to present specific evidence to support their general accusations. For example, Paul was accused of starting trouble among the Jews in the province of Asia ([24:18, 19](#)), but the Jews in the province of Asia (western Turkey) were not present to confirm this. This is another example of Paul using every opportunity to witness for Christ (see [24:14, 24](#)).

[24:22](#) Felix had been governor for six years and would have known about the Christians ("the Way"), a topic of conversation among the Roman leaders. The Christians' peaceful lifestyles had already proven to the Romans that Christians didn't go around starting riots.

[24:25](#) Paul's talk with Felix became so personal that Felix grew frightened. Felix, like Herod Antipas ([Mark 6:17, 18](#)), had taken another man's wife. Paul's words were interesting until they focused on "righteousness and self-control and the coming day of judgment." Many people will be glad to discuss the Good News with you as long as it doesn't touch their lives too personally. When it does, some will resist or run. But this is what the Good News is all about—God's power to change lives. The Good News is not effective until it moves from principles and doctrine into a life-changing dynamic. When someone resists or runs from your witness, you have undoubtedly succeeded in making the Good News personal.

[24:27](#) The Jews were in the majority, and the Roman political leaders wanted to defer to them to help keep the peace. Paul seemed to incite problems among the Jews everywhere he went. By keeping him in prison, Felix left office on good terms with the Jews. Felix lost his job as governor and was called back to Rome. Porcius Festus took over as governor in late 59 or early 60. He was more just than Felix, who had kept Paul in prison for two years, in hopes that perhaps Paul would bribe him and that, by detaining Paul, the Jews would be kept happy. When Festus came into office, he immediately ordered Paul's trial to resume.

[24:27](#) Though God had promised that Paul would preach the gospel in Rome ([23:11](#)), the great apostle had to endure more than two years of Felix's refusal to decide his fate. In addition to this custody, Paul was subjected to other long stretches of time during which he could do little but trust God and wait for him to act. What do you do when it comes to the issue of waiting on God? Do you become anxious? angry? discouraged? Few things test our patience and faith like being forced to wait—which perhaps explains why our sovereign God often puts us in situations where we have no other choice.

***Acts Study Guide questions
and notes are from:***

