

Acts 22.30 – 23.35

A Crisis Man

Roman Captain needed Exact CHARGES Against Roman CITIZEN

Heard lots of Shouting, Passion, Hatred > Not clear what LAW Broken?

Requests Special Mtg of 70 Jewish Ldrs SANHEDRIN: Find Exact Issue

### 1. Challenge in Jewish Council

a. Slap in the Conscience Innocent Comment makes Council Incensed

vs. 1,2 Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

Good thing ROMAN Soldiers Not gone out for COFFEE & Donuts

Paul makes Bold Claim > I am Faithful JEW AND Follower of JESUS

High Priest considered Paul a BLASPHEMER

Jewish Historian JOSEPHUS writes about Quick Temper of Ananias

ANGRY about Paul’s Confidence & Peace > Feared GOD Not man

Paul’s GREETING met with SLAP in Face > Dialogue turned Dangerous

Perhaps Paul ALSO overcome by ANGER and cries in SARCASM

Quick to Cleanse Conscience by CONFESSION --- Not Personal Apology

Their Consciences so GUILTY > Paul’s INTEGRITY arouses ANGER!

Confidence in Sovereign God not Jewish Sanhedrin or Roman CAESAR

PEACE with God not based on Circumstances but Faithful Promises

v. 3 Paul SPOKE PROPHETICALLY “God is going to strike you..”

Historian “When the Jews revolted against Rome in the year 66, Ananias had to flee for his life because of his known sympathies with Rome. The Jewish guerillas found him hiding in an aqueduct at Herod’s palace and killed him. An ignominious death for a despicable man”

Warren Wiersbe

v. 3 “... you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?”

White Washed Wall > Hypocrite - 1<sup>st</sup> C Lawfare against RIVALS

v. 5 And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

Informal Session > Sanhedrin members not wearing Distinctive Robes?

Paul’s Poor EYE sight did Not Recognize Ananias the High Priest

RESPECTS Office of High Priest > but NOT godless Office-Holder

Calvin interprets Paul “I recognize nothing priestly about this man!”

b. Stance evokes Conflict Testimony NOT Work, try Theology

Real ISSUE is Resurrection > Knew tossing Grenade into Sanhedrin

Majority Party v. 8 “Sadducees: there is no resurrection, angel, nor spirit”

That’s WHY they are SAD U SEE! – This Old World ALL they GOT!

Minority incl PAUL > Pharisees believe Resurrection from Dead

Jews looked GENERAL Resurr ALL Dead > Not ONE Man as Firstfruits

Paul KNEW he’d NOT get FAIR Trial from the SANHEDRIN

Go DOWN > For Most Impt TRUTH about the WAY of Jesus

“Resurrection of Jesus is Gibraltar of Christian Evidences” R.A. Torrey

Main Pt of Apostolic Preaching: “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” 1 Corinthians 15.17-19

Pharisees found NOTHING Wrong w Paul > Neither did LORD JESUS

Jesus: Condemned Criminal stood before THIS Sanhedrin 30 yrs Earlier

Now Risen Lord STANDS with his Servant Born Again by Resurrection

v. 10 the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks

TRIBUNE Not Find any way Citizen Paul had Broken ROMAN Law

## 2. Clash with Zealous Conspirators

### a. Plots of Evil Doers

Paul, Follower of RISEN Jesus, Born Again w TARGET on his Back

Jesus to Ananias tell this to Paul when Pray for Sight & BAPTIZE him:

“for he (PAUL) is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name”  
Acts 9.15,16

After some days in Damascus: “the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket”  
Acts 9.23-25

Then goes home to Jerusalem: “he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him”  
Acts 9.29

1<sup>st</sup> M journey Antioch in Pisidia: “the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul & Barnabas, and drove them out of their district”  
Acts 13.50

Next Stop Iconium: “attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them”  
Acts 14.5

Next Stop Lystra, they did Not Miss: “Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead”  
Acts 14.19

20 yrs Later > Paul on 3<sup>rd</sup> M Journey in Ephesus: “the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God”  
Acts 20.23,24

v. 12 Story 40 take VOW of Death to makes sure that Paul DIES

v. 15 CORRUPTION of Council > Plan UNJUST Ambush

Just as they MURDERED SAVIOR Now plan the Martyrdom Servant

### b. Providence of God our Father

“Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to his love, and the future to his providence”  
Augustine

Providence of God > Young Man who loved UNCLE PAUL

Not know Name – Name Paul’s Sister > Instruments of DELIVERANCE

Soldier listened to Nephew, Tribune listened, BELIEVED, Acted Quickly

God chooses WEAK things of this World to CONFOUND the STRONG!

### c. Power of the State for Good

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Romans 13.3,4

Paul writes to Xtians in Capital/ROME about Narrow Purpose of STATE

Not to Raise KIDS, Give JOBS > STOP Evil and PROMOTE Good

Tribune Good Man > Commanded 470 Soldiers Protect Paul from PLOT

Luke spoke Favorably about Cornelius (ch 10) and Julius (ch 27)

No record in Acts of OFFICIAL Roman Persecution > Happened Later

Captain Claudius acted out of Self-Defense TOO – Needed CHARGES

Illegal HOLD Citizen unless CHARGED w Crime

v. 29 Tribune kicks CAN to Governor FELIX – Let him DECIDE

Swiftly moves Paul 65 miles from Jerusalem to Casearea by Night

v. 31 Went 37 miles to ANTIPARIS – Marched thru NIGHT

v. 32 CALVARY took Paul remaining 27 miles – Fightsoldiers Returned

“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them” Psalm 34.7

“Let us trust in God, and be very courageous for the Gospel, and the Lord Himself will screen us from all harm”  
Charles Spurgeon

Needs God’s continued CARE > See Gov FELIX NOT a GOOD Man!

Wonderful News for Paul > Not just have Claudius in his CORNER!

### 3. Comfort from Jesus Christ

v. 11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”

a. **Courage** “take courage” – They want to Kill You, I want to Keep You!

Ch 18 read Paul OPPOSED & REVILED in CORINTH: And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” (18.9,10)

If GOD is on your SIDE > You are always IN the MAJORITY

b. **Commendation** “you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem”

Lord NOT Rebuke Paul for going to Jerusalem > Despite WARNINGS

Paul might have FELT like Failure, Offering from Gentiles spent on Vow

Instead of UNITY w JEWS there was RIOT in the TEMPLE

Testimony to SANHEDRIN brought Council into CONFUSION

But JESUS was Pleased w his Loyal Servant – God’s Purpose Advanced

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

2 Corinthians 2.15,16

AROMA is OF Christ > HE is the SWEET SAVOR, AROMA of LIFE

How DIFFERENT, SIMPLE but PROFOUND Knowledge of God in X

More REAL 1st C Esoteric, Mystical, Initiation Religions of SECRETS

Knowledge of X spreads like Sweet AROMA to ALL People Everywhere

Only TWO Possible RESPONSES to the GOSPEL

NOT everyone will RECEIVE the LIFE-GIVING Aroma of JESUS

Simeon held Baby Jesus in Temple @ Dedication “...child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel...”  
Luke 2.34

The gospel is preached unto salvation, that is its real purpose....the gospel is never preached in vain, but is effectual, leading either to life or death.  
John Calvin

GOSPEL comes from Scene of DEATH and becomes a SOURCE of LIFE

If Jesus is taken to be a dead Jew and nothing more the message about him will be rejected, and those who reject it will become as dead as they suppose Jesus to be. C.K. Barrett

c. Confidence v. 11 “so you must testify also in Rome”

Paul’s DESIRE to Go to Rome WOULD be Fulfilled by God

He could HOLD ON to Promise from God – thru Attacks, Lies, Troubles

Several Years of IMPRISONMENT – Dangerous Sea Voyage > ROME!

Confidence expressed in RIGHT CONSCIENCE before God and man

v. 1 “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.”

Paul put his head on the pillow at night with a clean conscience

Conscience > ‘God’s spy and man’s overseer.’

Both our prosecuting attorney, bringing up offenses and producing guilt – And our defense attorney, helping us face false accusations and slanders

He will tell Gov Felix in Caesarea: “I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man” Acts 24.16

Not saying SINLESS > Rejoicing that SIN was Paid For by Jesus

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”  
1 John 1.8,9

“This chapter is rooted in God’s providence, which moves to protect God’s children...though Stephen’s martyrdom (chapter 7) reminds us that providence does not always mean physical rescue...Paul will go to Rome as a prisoner, so that he will arrive safely and immediately be speaking to the highest levels of society. It is unlikely that Paul would ever have such a high level audience if he traveled there as a missionary. It is one of the mysteries of providence that many times we cannot see why things are happening as they are. Yet God is surely at work in ways we could not have planned for ourselves.” Daryl Bock

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3.36

“Father, make me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to a decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road. Make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me.”  
Jim Elliot, d. 1956

## Congregational Prayer

“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?” These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival... Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me... I say to God, my rock: “Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?”

### **Find the Lord afresh by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.” “...whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3.7-11). Amen and Amen.