Book of Acts
Chapter 22:30 – 23:35

Lesson 22

22:30-23:11

Why did the commander order the Sanhedrin to assemble? (22:30)

- The Roman Tribune desired to know:
  - The reason why the Jews were so antagonistic toward Paul.
  - Was Paul guilty of an offense that is chargeable under Roman law.

22:30-23:11

What bold claims did Paul make? (23:1)

- He acted in all good conscience
- His conscience was clear of any blame regarding the conduct of his life as a Christian.
- He had a heavenly vision. (22:6-11)

22:30-23:11

Ananias the high Priest orders Paul to be struck on the mouth. (23:2) For what reason?

- Either the claims:
  - Paul's heavenly vision (22:6-11) or Paul's mission (23:1)
  - His expression of faithfulness to God.
- Ananias viewed Paul guilty of blasphemy for speaking in this way.

22:30-23:11

What do you know about High Priest Ananias?

- Ananias, son of Nebedaius, was appointed high priest by Herod of Chalchis (brother of Herod Agrippa I)
- Reigned in the period AD 47–59.
- He was murdered in AD 66 by revolutionaries, because of his collaboration with Rome.

22:30-23:11

What was Paul's response to Ananias and why did he say he was a whitewashed wall? (23:3)

- Paul echoed Jesus' warning of divine judgement to the teachers of the law and the Pharisees in Matthew 23:27

  "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.

5a

22:30-23:11

What's the meaning of a whitewashed wall?

- Ezekiel 13:10–16 uses the image of a 'whitewashed wall' to portray something which looks stable enough but is about to collapse.
- Tombs were often whitewashed to make them more visible.
- Jesus uses the image of 'whitewashed tombs' to portray the hypocrisy of the religious leaders concerning the Mosaic law.

5b

22:30-23:11

How did those standing nearby challenge Paul? (23:4-5) And what was Paul's response back to them?

- They condemned Paul for insulting God's high priest.
- Somewhat surprisingly, Paul's reply was, 'Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: "Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people".

6a

22:30-23:11

Did Paul recognize the person he addressed as the current high priest?

- Was, Paul's response ironic, meaning 'that it is hard to recognize this priest as God's chosen high priest because of his conduct'.
- Perhaps, Paul's was unsure about the identity of the high priest (he had been away from Jerusalem for some time).

22:30-23:11

How did Paul disrupt the proceedings and divide his enemies? (23:6–9)

- Paul says, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.”
- The Sadducees didn’t believe in the resurrection.
- Dissension arose between the groups.

22:30-23:11

Why was Paul in extreme danger? (23:10)

- Because the dissension started to became violent.

22:30-23:11

What did the Roman tribune fear and what did He do? (23:10)

- He was afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces.
- He commanded the soldiers to go down and take Paul and bring him into the barracks.

22:30-23:11

How was Paul comforted and encouraged? (23:11)

- The Lord (Jesus) spoke to him by saying "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

23:12-15

Conspiracy! Why? How Many? And Who? 23:12-15

- To kill Paul
- 40
  - The radical Jews, perhaps those from Asia.
  - The chief priests and elders.
  - The Sanhedrin hierarchy.

21:1-16

Why was it that 40 Jews who took an oath to kill Paul, failed to succeed in killing Paul?

- Because it was the Lord's plan that Paul would go to Rome.

23:16-30

When Paul's nephew heard about the plot, what did he do? (23:16-17)

- His nephew reported it to Paul and then to the Tribune.

- **If God's had Paul's future in His hands why did Paul have his nephew report it to the Tribune?**

23:16-30

How did the tribune respond? (23:23-25)

- The tribune sent two Centurions, their 200 soldiers, spearmen, and 70 horsemen with Paul to Caesarea that night.
- Including a letter to the governor, Felix in Caesarea.

23:16-30

What did the Tribune tell Felix about Paul? (23:26-30)

- Paul was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed.
- He rescued him having learned that he was a Roman citizen.
- In desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, he sent Paul to their council.

23:16-30

What did the Tribune tell Felix about Paul? (23:26-30)

- He found that Paul was being accused based on Jewish law and nothing deserving death or imprisonment.
- I sent him to you when a plot was discovered against him.
- I ordered his accusers to state before you what they have against him."

23:16-30

Last Questions

- What does their complicity in the plot tell you about the chief priests and elders?
- What do we learn about God's providence through the events that unfold as Paul navigates his trials?
- How can Paul's example of standing firm in his faith during adversity, inspire you in your own spiritual journey?