

Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)
Bible Study Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#
Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 6:30-7:30 PM

Acts 22:30 to Act 23:1-35

The Roman tribune handed Paul over to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish High Council. Paul did not break any Roman laws but because Paul is under arrest he must present his case for release to a court. In this case the only court with true jurisdiction was the Jewish High Council. The Roman tribune had the authority to command the Jewish High Council to hear Paul's case and he exercised that authority.

Acts 22:30 – Acts 23:1-5

Paul addressed the Sanhedrin by stating he tried to live a righteous life. For that statement, Ananias ordered someone to strike Paul in the mouth. Paul replied with a declaration against Ananias and then he apologized.

Have we ever wanted to strike someone because of what they said? How serious was Paul's apology?

Acts 23:6-10

Paul spoke of the resurrection of the dead. Pharisees believe in resurrection but Sadducees do not. The Pharisees stood up to defend Paul and an uproar ensued. The uproar caused the tribune to take Paul forcibly back to the barracks.

What are comparable events in modern times when crowds became unreasonable and beat innocent people?

Acts 23:11

Jesus visited Paul that evening in the barracks. The purpose of the visit was to encourage Paul not to lose heart. Jesus also confirmed for Paul that he would now go to Rome to testify about the gospel truth.

What is special about Jesus visiting Paul and not an angel?

Acts 23:12-22

Again Paul's life was in danger. We now learn that Paul has family in Jerusalem and God used Paul's nephew to bring the warning to the tribune. Paul heard the news and then arranged for his nephew to tell the tribune.

Why would Paul not tell the tribune but instead send his nephew? Why would the tribune hear the message privately?

Acts 23:23-30

The tribune sent Paul to Felix, the governor in Caesarea. Without a trial Paul could not be punished. Paul, as a Roman citizen, had to have the government involved in the trial. The Jewish High Council could present evidence and then Felix would determine the punishment. The tribune sent 200 hundred horsemen, 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen. This was an overwhelming number of men to take one prisoner to the governor. Also, the story written in the letter was not exactly what transpired. Key parts were not included.

Why was it necessary to have so many soldiers escort Paul?

Why leave out key parts of the incident?
