

Sermon Date: March 2, 2014
Paul Before the Sanhedrin – Acts 23:1-35
Doug McBride

Read Acts 23:1-35

From last week:

Things are starting to heat up drastically for Paul. In last week's lesson it was noted Paul is very strategic. Remember from Acts 21:39 that although his very life was at threat, Paul still strived for one thing: to speak to the crowd and testify about Christ. Note also that Paul could have identified himself as a Roman citizen earlier (from Acts 21:39) rather than later (Acts 22:25) but he chose to keep in step with his calling although it threatened his own survival.

1. If you had to guess, what might have been Paul's strategy in Acts 23:6? See also v. 7-9.

2. What stunning encounter does Paul have in v. 11? One commentator noted that although Paul was delivered from jail cells before, this time the LORD *met him in* the jail cell rather than deliver him. In other words, *Jesus entered Paul's prison*. For what reason?
 - a. Often we ask the LORD to deliver us *out* of our circumstances when what He wants is to us meet us *in* our circumstances. Why would He want to do that? Has there been a time when you prayed that God would deliver you from something but it did not go well? Did you experience the comfort of Christ? If so, how? If not, what happened?

Doug makes the following observation:

*"Paul knows God is faithful – in the end God wins. As a result we win. With that in mind Doug challenged us as ones who **know the end of the story** to read it as though you don't know about the vision from Jesus." View this through the lens of Paul at this moment in time. Paul did not know the details of how this would turn out, he could only trust and receive comfort from the LORD with an internal trust that God was good to His word. How has this or does this challenge you?*

3. How desperate were Jews to end Paul's ministry (v. 12-15)?

