

Tell the world

Acts 22: 30 – 22:35

Study 3: Facing hostile religious opposition

Text Questions:

Paul stands before the Jewish Sanhedrin, the authoritative religious leadership, to ascertain the exact nature of the accusations levelled against him by them.

1. What does the manner in which Paul addresses the Sanhedrin indicate (22:30-23:1 [see 22:1])?
2. Why is Paul provoked (23:2-4 [see Matthew 23:27-28])?
3. What does Paul's response to the corrupt High Priest show (23:5)?
4. Why does Paul's identity create such controversy (23:6-8 [Philippians 3:4-6])?
 - 4.1. Why is Paul's hope of the resurrection such a key belief to defend [see 24:15; 1 Peter 1:3]?
 - 4.2. How does the dispute in the Sanhedrin work in Paul's favour (23:9)?
5. What does the reaction of these religious leaders reveal (23:9-10)?
6. What's the significance of this divine intervention (23:11)?
7. What does the severity of hostility against Paul indicate (23:12-15 [see 21:31; John 15:18-21])?
8. What does the exposure of the murderous plot against Paul reveal (23:16-22)?
9. What does the rather excessive Roman military detachment secure (23:23-24)?
10. How is Paul's transfer to Caesarea a fulfillment of God's word (23:26-35 [see 9:15])?

Application Questions:

1. How can you show supreme confidence in the face any resistance vented against the gospel?
2. Compare and contrast Paul with these religious leaders.
 - 2.1. How are similar inconsistencies among "religious" leaders/people exposed today?
 - 2.2. What can you do to capitalize on some who are more open to persuasion than others?
3. Why is the hope of the resurrection such an important conviction for every follower of Jesus?
4. How can you know with confidence that God will vindicate you?
5. What evidence is there in your life that God is in supreme control?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, ...