



📍 Immediate Context 📍

- Paul warned he will face great danger in Jerusalem
 - Acts 20:22; 21:4; 21:11 – 12
- Paul was advised regarding possible trouble for Paul in Jerusalem
 - Many Jews converted through Paul's ministry (21:20)
 - The Jews understood Paul to have taught Jews to forsake Moses (21:21)
 - Not to circumcise their children
 - Not to walk according to Jewish customs
 - Need to show that Paul still observed the Law and thus disprove Paul's critics (21:24)
 - Solution: Paul was to take with him 4 men who were under Jewish vows of sorts for purification at the temple as required by Jewish customs (21:24, 26)
- Paul was accused by Jews from Asia
 - of being against the Jewish people, the Law and the temple (21:28)
 - of defiling the temple by bringing Gentiles into the temple (21:28)
- Paul's life in danger
 - Intervention by the commander of the cohort (21:31 – 33)
- The commander was unable to extract any proper facts regarding the issue due to the uproar. (21:34-36)
- Paul then requested to address the crowd. (21:37 – 22:21)
 - The mention of his being sent to the Gentiles and bringing them into God's fold became riotous (22:22)
- The commander then decided to find out the facts of the matter by interrogating Paul through flogging (22:23-24)
 - Paul appealed to his roman citizenship which prevented the flogging (22:25-29)



Trouble after trouble! How did Paul respond to all these in light of the commission to preach the gospel?

📍 22:30 – 23:5 God is Judge: Live in Good Conscience in line with the Gospel 📍

- Indication of Paul's good conscience
- What is a good conscience?
 - Ref: Romans 2:15; 9:1; 13:5;
 - 1 Corinthians 8:7, 10, 12; 10:25, 27-29;
 - 2 Corinthians 1:12; 4:2; 5:11
- Paul's response to an immediate experience of injustice
- Why is a good conscience important?

23:6 – 10 God is Hope: Hold Out the Hope Found in the Gospel

- Paul's appeal on grounds of the true reason for his standing trial: **The resurrection of Jesus**
 - The message of resurrection in Acts
 - Peter's speech at Pentecost (2:24, 31-33)
 - The apostles' preaching in Jerusalem is summarized as resurrection preaching (4:33)
 - Stephen saw the glorified Jesus (7:56)
 - Paul's encounter with the risen Christ (described in detail in Acts 9:1–19; 22:6–16; and 26:12–23)
 - Paul's earliest preaching in Pisidian Antioch (13:30-35)
 - James' speech at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:16)
 - Paul pointed out in Acts 13 – Christ by His resurrection is the true Son of God who reigns over all the nations
 - Paul in Athens (17:30 - 32)
 - Jesus is presented as alive and active throughout Luke's narrative.
 - Why is the resurrection important?
- The consequence of Paul's appeal
 - Pharisees' belief
 - Sadducees' belief

23:11 God is Sovereign: Continue in Courage to Preach the Gospel

- The Lord's personal encouragement to Paul
- The Lord's plans for Paul (reflecting His greater plan for the gospel work)

Think and Pray...

1. A) As Paul opened his defense, he claimed upon his good conscience before God. With reference to the following verse, discuss why a good conscience is important especially in the face of opposition.
 - a. 1 Peter 3:16 - 17
 - b. 1 Peter 4:14 - 16
 - c. Philippians 1:12 – 20B) When Paul realised he had done wrong in cursing the high priest, he did not delay in apologizing. How does such a response show that Paul is consistent in living with a good conscience before God?
 - a. What are some situations that will incline us to perhaps go against cultivating a life of good conscience?
2. Share in your group a time when the resurrection of Christ and that promised to believers held out hope to give strength and courage to continue what is good despite the opposition/ obstacles.
3. Share with your group a verse or passage that you hold on to for courage to share the gospel.