

IV. A Murderous Conspiracy (23:12-35)

- A. Can Christ's plan over His Gospel mission be thwarted by an angry mob of recalcitrant men with unflinching resolve?
 - i. Isaiah 8:10
 - ii. Job 42:2

B. Paul's Nephew

C. A Centurion

D. A Commander

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What do you think would be different about the world today if Paul's enemies had succeeded against him in Jerusalem?
- Why might a verse like Acts 23:11 be the main scene, the most significant event, in all Paul's time in Jerusalem (Acts 21–23)?
- In what ways does Christ assurance to Paul in 23:11 also provide assurance for us in our own lives?
- What are some of the ways that you have seen the Gospel opposed in the world today? Have you personally experienced some of this opposition? How does our text call us to respond?
- Though Paul was called to suffer for the Gospel, how do we see here that suffering in itself was not the point?
- Explain: *There is a time and place for asserting legal rights; there is a time and place for laying them down.* How did Paul demonstrate this in the text? How are we to apply it?
- What assures the future of the Gospel in the face of every opposition?

Back to the Future

Jerry Cisar — January 25, 2015

Text: Acts 22:21 – 23:35

Introduction (23:10-13)

- A. What would the world look like today without Paul?

- B. Though invisible to everyone in the story, except Paul, Jesus is directing every event to His desired outcome.

i. The Jewish hostility to the Gospel increases to a fever pitch, while Paul is positioned by the Lord Jesus to bring the Gospel to the center of the empire.

ii. What assured the future of the Gospel in the face of every opposition?

I. A Riotous Scene (Acts 22:21–29)

- A. What had Paul said that raised such an outcry?

i. Act 22:21-22

a) Jealousy

b) Hatred

B. God's Providential Intervention

i. Act 21:31

ii. Roman Flogging

C. A Curious Conversation with a Roman Commander (27-29)

B. Testifying to the Gospel (**23:6-10**)

i. Paul begins testifying to the Gospel of God's grace.

ii. Paul has one aim in Jerusalem. (Acts 20:22-24)

a) Hope and resurrection of the dead – central in Acts

- Acts 1:22
- Acts 4:2
- 4:33
- Acts 17:18, 32

iii. Pharisees and the Gospel

a) Sadducees

b) Chaos and Paul's enemies.

III. A Powerful Assurance (23:11)

A. How does Jesus' appearance in 23:11 shape our understanding of the whole story?

i. Paul must testify in Rome (Luke 9:22; 13:33; 17:25; 24:7)

ii. Paul's future is sure.

B. Paul's four year journey to Rome may have less flash than previous deliverances, but it just as supernatural.

Adolph Schlater: *As long as natural urges rule our will, hate generates hate, and injustice generates opposition. There was no restriction on the Jews' hate, which made them desire the annihilation of Christianity. Would hate also make Jesus' disciples the judges and enemies of their people? (Do We Know Jesus?)*