

# ACTS 23 vs 1

The previous chapter ended with Paul under arrest, but on the next day, because the commander wanted to know why he was accused by the Jews, he released him, and instructed the chief priests and all their council to assemble, and then brought Paul down, and set him before them.

Paul's testimony before the Sanhedrin,

**<sup>1</sup> And Paul, earnestly observing the council, said, Men and brothers, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.**

**<sup>2</sup> And the rude and bossy high priest Ananias told those who stood by him to punch him in the mouth.**

**<sup>3</sup> Then Paul said to him, God will punch you, you whitewashed block: for you are sitting there to judge me after the law, and in violation of the law you order for me to be beaten?**

**<sup>4</sup> And those who stood by said, Do you insult the high priest of God?**

**<sup>5</sup> Then Paul said, I was not aware brothers, that he was the high priest: for it is written, You will not speak evil of the ruler of your people.**

**<sup>6</sup> But perceiving that one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, Paul cried out in the Council, Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: and I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead.**

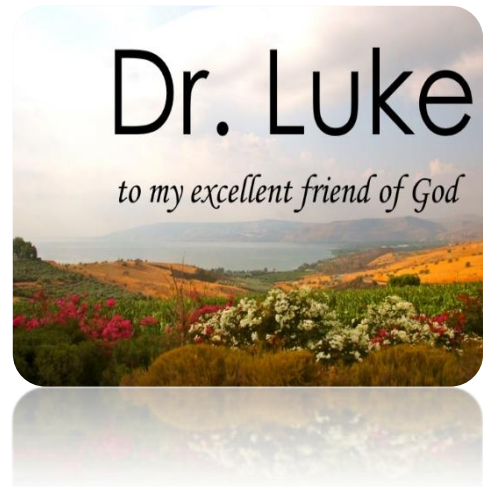
**<sup>7</sup> And as he said this, there arose a fiery dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the assembly was divided.**

**<sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, no angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees acknowledge both.**

**<sup>9</sup> And there arose a great uproar: and the scribes who were of the Pharisaic party got up, and forcefully argued, We find nothing wrong with this man: suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God.**

**<sup>10</sup> And as a great dissension heated up, the commander, fearing lest Paul should have been torn to pieces by them, instructed the soldiers to go down, and to take him away by force, and bring him into the barracks.**

Paul escorted to Caesarea,



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<sup>11</sup> And that night, **the Lord stood at his side**, and said, Take courage Paul: for as you have witnessed of Me in Jerusalem, so you must witness also at Rome.

<sup>12</sup> And when it was day, some of the Jews conspired together, and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul.

<sup>13</sup> And more than forty colluded in this plot.

<sup>14</sup> And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great oath, that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul.

<sup>15</sup> Now therefore you and the Council notify the commander that he bring him down to you tomorrow, as though you would determine his case by a more thorough investigation: and we, before he comes near this place, will be ready to kill him.

<sup>16</sup> And when a son of the sister of Paul heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks, and told Paul.

<sup>17</sup> **Then Paul called one of the centurions to him, and said, Take this young man to the commander: for he has some matter to report to him.**

<sup>18</sup> So he took him, and led him to the commander, and said, Paul the prisoner called me to him, and asked me to take this young man to you, who has some matter to report to you.

<sup>19</sup> Then the captain took him by the hand, and they went aside privately, and asked him, What is it that you have to report to me?

<sup>20</sup> And he said, The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down tomorrow to the Council, as though they would investigate his case more thoroughly.

<sup>21</sup> But do not yield to them: for more than forty men wait there to ambush him, who have conspired with an oath, that they will not eat nor drink until they have killed him: and they are now ready and waiting for a promise from you.

<sup>22</sup> So then the commander let the young man depart, and ordered him, See that you tell no one what you have reported to me.

<sup>23</sup> And he called to him two centurions, saying, Get ready by the third hour of the night, 200 soldiers to go to Caesarea, and 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen;



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<sup>24</sup> And provide them mounts, to put Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor.

<sup>25</sup> **And he wrote a letter after this format:**

<sup>26</sup> Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix sends greeting.

<sup>27</sup> This man was arrested by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them: when I came with a troop, and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman.

<sup>28</sup> And wanting to ascertain the charge for which they accused him, I brought him down to their council:

<sup>29</sup> and I perceived him to be accused over questions of their Law, but with no accusation worthy of death or detention.

<sup>30</sup> And when it was reported to me how the Jews conspired to ambush the man, I sent directly to you, and gave instruction to his accusers also to say in your presence what they had against him. Farewell / end of the letter.

<sup>31</sup> So the soldiers, as they were ordered, took Paul, and brought him by night to Antipatris.

<sup>32</sup> But the next day leaving the horsemen to go with him, they returned to the barracks:

<sup>33</sup> and when those who came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.

<sup>34</sup> **And when the governor had read the letter, he asked from what province he was. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia;**

<sup>35</sup> he said, I will hear you, when your accusers also arrive. And he instructed him to be kept in Herod's Hall of Justice.

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