

“When Your Mission Is Not Over Yet!”

Acts 23:11-35, ESV

INTRODUCTION: As Paul languished in a prison, he had to wonder if his ministry was over, and whether there would be any fruit from his labors. Do you ever feel like this? Paul had preached Christ to Jews, Gentiles, lesser civil authorities, and soon he would stand before governors and kings, the upper echelon of government. Clearly, though circumstances might say one thing, Paul’s mission was not over yet. Under the authority of Christ, Paul still had Kingdom work to do.

1). A Declaration of Utter FAITHFULNESS (v. 11).

Jesus Christ is **faithful**. Christ **assures** Paul. He **stands with** His servants, His people (**2 Tim. 4:16-17**). Paul’s mission was not over yet! There was more **Kingdom work** to be done.

2). An Oath of Utter WICKEDNESS (v. 12-15).

Jews hatch a **plot to kill Paul**, even binding themselves to this end with an oath. More than forty individuals made this commitment. The **oath** and plot to kill Paul is utterly wicked.

3). A Disclosure of Utter TRUTHFULNESS (v. 16-22).

Paul’s nephew hears of the plot to ambush Paul during Paul’s transport to the chief priests and elders. He informs Paul. Paul **sends him to the tribune** with instructions to inform the tribune of the plot. The **tribune listens intently** and instructs the young man not to tell anyone of these things.

4). An Opportunity of Utter FAIRNESS (v. 23-35).

Lysias sends almost **half of his 1,000-man garrison** to escort and protect Paul, thus demonstrating how seriously he viewed this plot against the apostle.

Lysias sends a **letter to Felix** the governor, with key contextual details.

Of particular interest is the fact that Lysias’ **failure to mention any crimes** against Roman law was tantamount to declaring Paul innocent.

Antipatris was a **Roman military post** about forty miles from Jerusalem.

From there the horsemen continue with Paul and present the letter and Paul to Felix.

In **utter fairness** Felix, after evaluating if he had jurisdiction to hear Paul’s case, indicated to Paul that he would indeed hear Paul’s case upon arrival of his accusers.

A Few Key Takeaways:

1. You are not alone as you face problems of various intensity. God is with us (**Isa. 41:10**).
2. It is not over until it is over. Our God makes dry bones live (**Ez. 37**).
3. Only God knows when He is finished with you here on earth (**Jeremiah 29:11**).
4. A key aim of the Christian life is to be found faithful. Stay at it. You still have work to do (**2 Tim. 4:7-8**).