

June 14, 2026

Divine Instruments

St. John
Baptist Church
Worship • Love • Serve • Grow • People



Dr. Derrick E. Reaves, D.Min
Senior Pastor-Teacher
June 14th | 10:45 AM CDT
www.stjohnbc.org

Acts 23:23-35

Sermon Notes

Acts 23:23–35 (NLT)

²³Then the commander called two of his officers and ordered, “Get 200 soldiers ready to leave for Caesarea at nine o’clock tonight. Also take 200 spearmen and 70 mounted troops.

²⁴Provide horses for Paul to ride, and get him safely to Governor Felix.”

²⁵Then he wrote this letter to the governor:

²⁶“From Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency, Governor Felix:
Greetings!

²⁷“This man was seized by some Jews, and they were about to kill him when I arrived with the troops. When I learned that he was a Roman citizen, I removed him to safety.

²⁸Then I took him to their high council to try to learn the basis of the accusations against him.

²⁹I soon discovered the charge was something regarding their religious law—certainly nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.

³⁰But when I was informed of a plot to kill him, I immediately sent him on to you. I have told his accusers to bring their charges before you.”

³¹So that night, as ordered, the soldiers took Paul as far as Antipatris.

³²They returned to the fortress the next morning, while the mounted troops took him on to Caesarea.

³³When they arrived in Caesarea, they presented Paul and the letter to Governor Felix.

³⁴He read it and then asked Paul what province he was from. "Cilicia," Paul answered.

³⁵"I will hear your case myself when your accusers arrive," the governor told him. Then the governor ordered him kept in the prison at Herod's headquarters.

(Answer key located on the last page)

I. PROVIDENCE: *God Protects His Servants Through Providential Instruments Acts 23:23–24*

Key Focus: God is specific — He is precise.

Claudius Lysias was motivated by _____

But God was protecting _____.

Sometimes God uses people who don't even _____ in the God who sent them.

God's Goal: God doesn't just want you to _____ the hard season — He wants to _____ you through it.

 **APPLICATION**

This week, stop calling the events of your life coincidence.

Write down 3 'ordinary' moments and ask God to show you His hand in them.

II. PERSECUTION: *God Purposes His Servants Through the Instruments of Persecution Acts 23:25–30*

Key Focus: Imperfect instruments, perfect purposes.

Claudius Lysias wrote a letter that _____ his own history.

God used every _____ of it to protect Paul's life.

Key Truth: God doesn't only work through _____ instruments.

What the enemy designs to _____ you, God will use it to _____ you.

 **APPLICATION**

Your opposition is not evidence that God abandoned you — it may be evidence that He is positioning you.

Ask: 'Lord, what are You opening up through this that I can't see yet?'

III. PRESERVATION: *God Positions His Servants Through the Instruments of Preservation. Acts 23:31–35*

Key Focus: Your confinement may be your preparation.

The enemy wanted Paul in a _____. God put him in a _____.

Your present _____ may not be your punishment — it may be your _____.

Paul's Inner Anchor (Acts 23:11): The _____ of God was his anchor when everything outward was _____.

 **APPLICATION**

Instead of praying 'Lord, get me out of this,' try praying: 'Lord, show me what You're building in me through this.'

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Which of the three movements speaks most to where you are right now?

PROVIDENCE PERSECUTION PRESERVATION

What is the one circumstance in my life right now that I most need to trust God as the Conductor of?

Answer Key

I. PROVIDENCE

self-interest / protecting his
career | His servant (Paul) |
believe | survive | carry |

II. PERSECUTION

rewrote / polished | word | perfect |
silence | amplify

III. PRESERVATION

grave | palace | confinement |
preparation | promise |
uncertain

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

Connect With Pastor Reaves!

Like his page on Facebook Derrick Reaves

Follow him on



@DerrickReaves

