



Hey Christ Church!

This is a beautiful time of the year! It seems like all of nature has come to life! I see it as God's way of telling us that the world will go on; that He is in control; and that He carries us in the palm of His hand!

Today's Bible study shows how God will can be carried out no matter what. Sometimes it is the least expected person who is carrying out God's will—even though they may not realize it. Today, look for ways that God's will is being carried out in unusual ways. Ask God not to bless what you are doing, but to allow you to be a part of what He is blessing. Enjoy these days that the Lord has made. It is an opportunity to rejoice and be glad because of God being present here with us!

Stay Safe, Pray Always and Press On!
In Christ's Greater Love,
Roger

SESSION FORTY-TWO

6/2/2020

Acts 23:11-35

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

The Plot to Kill Paul

¹² The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.

¹³ More than forty men were involved in this plot. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here.”

¹⁶ But when the son of Paul’s sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him.” ¹⁸ So he took him to the commander.

The centurion said, “Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you.”

¹⁹ The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, “What is it you want to tell me?”

²⁰ He said: “Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him. ²¹ Don’t give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request.”

²² The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: “Don’t tell anyone that you have reported this to me.”

Paul Transferred to Caesarea

²³ Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred

spearman to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. ²⁴ Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”

²⁵ He wrote a letter as follows:

²⁶ Claudius Lysias,

To His Excellency, Governor Felix:

Greetings.

²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen. ²⁸ I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin. ²⁹ I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. ³⁰ When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him.

³¹ So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris. ³² The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. ³³ When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him. ³⁴ The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵ he said, “I will hear your case when your accusers get here.” Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod’s palace.

1) After being in front of the Sanhedrin, Paul receives a special visit. The Lord came and stood next to Paul and said, *“Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”* This is an affirmation of earlier messages about the path that Paul was to take. It is the resurrected Jesus saying to earthly Paul, “You are still not done with your work for me.” How would you feel if you were Paul after receiving such a visit from Jesus?

2) The next verses read like an undercover agent story. What was the plot and how was it to be carried out?

3) Forty men made a “do or die” pledge to kill Paul!! These are religious men! Why, do you think, could such a thing happen?

4) We get a little bit more of an insight about Paul when we learn that Paul has a sister who lives in Jerusalem and that she has a son. The assumption is that the son would not be full grown. He hears of the plot and goes to tell Paul. Paul has him tell the story to the commander of the Roman troops in Jerusalem. What does the commander tell the boy and why?

5) After that, what does the commander do and why?

6) Think about it! Go back and count the numbers! Four hundred and seventy soldiers are dispatched to make sure Paul gets safely away from the city of Jerusalem! What does this tell you about the tensions of the day between the Paul and that Jews and between the Jews and the Romans?

7) Paul is sent to Felix, the Governor at Caesarea. There he will wait for his accusers to come before his case is heard. How do you think Paul was feeling at this point?

8) Reread the letter that the commander sends to Felix, the Governor of Caesarea. What more do you learn about Paul and this whole situation?

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

9) Many different situations can arise in a person's life. With Paul, he knew that the Lord was taking him down a difficult path. You can see how God is working through the commander of the Roman troops in the Jerusalem to further Paul's mission. Think about your own life. How is God working through current circumstances to further your mission as a Christ follower? Even though God's tasks for you may not be easy, are you willing to go forward with God?