

Conflict, Conscience & God's Sovereignty

Acts 22:22-23:11 (NASB)



**What happens when truth
divides?**

**What happens when standing
for Christ leads to opposition
rather than acceptance?**



The Crowd's Fury

They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, 'Away with such a man from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!'

Acts 22:22 (NASB)



Jewish Exclusivism Was Not New

24 But He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. 25 But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a severe famine came over all the land;

Luke 4:24-29 (NASB)



Jewish Exclusivism Was Not New

26 and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. **27** And there were many with leprosy in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

Luke 4:24-29 (NASB)



Jewish Exclusivism Was Not New

28 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; 29 and they got up and drove Him out of the city and brought Him to the crest of the hill on which their city had been built, so that they could throw Him down from the cliff.

Luke 4:24-29 (NASB)



An Angry Response

23 And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air, 24 the commander ordered that he be brought into the barracks, saying that he was to be interrogated by flogging so that he would find out the reason why they were shouting against him that way.

Acts 22:25-29 (NASB)



Roman Protection

25 But when they stretched him out with straps, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?" 26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman."

Acts 22:25-29 (NASB)



Roman Protection

27 The commander came and said to Paul, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" And he said, "Yes."

28 The commander answered, "I acquired this citizenship for a large sum of money." And Paul said, "But I was actually born a citizen."

Acts 22:25-29 (NASB)



Roman Protection

29 Therefore, those who were about to interrogate him immediately backed away from him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.

Acts 22:25-29 (NASB)



Paul Before the Sanhedrin

30 Now on the next day, wanting to know for certain why Paul had been accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Council to assemble, and he brought Paul down and placed him before them.

Acts 22:30-23:5 (NASB)



Paul Before the Sanhedrin

23 Now looking intently at the Council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life with an entirely good conscience before God up to this day." 2 But the high priest Ananias commanded those standing beside him to strike him on the mouth.

Acts 22:30-23:5 (NASB)



Paul's Response to Ananias

3 Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law, order me to be struck?" 4 But those present said, "Are you insulting God's high priest?" 5 And Paul said, "I was not aware, brothers, that he is high priest; for it is written: 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

Acts 22:30-23:5 (NASB)



Paul's Strategic Move

6 But Paul, perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, began crying out in the Council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!"

Acts 23:6 (NASB)



Resurrection as the Key Issue

7 When he said this, a dissension occurred between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

Acts 23:7-8 (NASB)



The Council Greatly Divided

9 And a great uproar occurred; and some of the scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up and started arguing heatedly, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man; suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

Acts 23:9 (NASB)



Roman Intervention

10 And when a great dissension occurred, the commander was afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, and he ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

Acts 23:10 (NASB)



Truth Will Cause Division

51 Do you think that I came to provide peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; 52 for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three.

Luke 12:51-52 (NASB)



Trusting God's Sovereign Protection

33 These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Luke 16:33 (NASB)



Christ's Reassurance to Paul

11 But on the following night, the Lord stood near him and said, "Be courageous! For as you have testified to the truth about Me in Jerusalem, so you must testify in Rome also."

Acts 23:11 (NASB)



Trusting Our Sovereign God

- > God's purposes are never hindered by human opposition.
- > Paul's suffering was not meaningless—his testimony was divinely ordained.
- > Encouragement in persecution is a biblical theme, rooted in God's promises.

