



Logos Class – Acts of the Apostles

On Campus class for Jan 9, 2022

Acts Ch 23 – Paul sent to Caesarea

Our next few weeks...

- ✓ *Jan 2, 2022 – Acts 22*
- ✓ *Jan 9, 2022 – Acts 23*
- *Jan 16, 2022 – Acts 24*
- *Friday, Jan 21, 2022 - My back surgery*
- *Jan 23, 2022 – Bill Minor*
- *Jan 30, 2022 – Acts 25*

Before we start in Acts

Three things are on my heart (*actually, a lot more*)

COVID – Omicron has hit close to home this week in our families/Church/class

- *Thankfully most have mild symptoms*

Culture wars – Jan 6 discussion plus rhetoric against those who have concerns about the whole vaccine dilemma

Pray for the Lord to clear our minds of the hysteria that appears to be taking over certain quarters

The Supreme Court is hearing an important case on Abortion in the US...we need to pray for this resolution...but some facts...

2021 Statistics from *Worldometer, Inc*

*Abortion was the leading cause of death **globally** in 2021, with nearly **43 million unborn babies killed in the womb**, according to data provided by Worldometer.*

- *As of noon on December 31, 2021, there were **42.6 million** abortions performed in 2021, while: **worldwide***
 - *8.2 million people died from cancer,*
 - *5 million from smoking,*
 - *1.7 million of HIV/AIDS,*
 - *1.3 million from traffic fatalities, and*
 - *1 million from suicide.*
 - *5.4 million people have died from COVID since the pandemic first began.*

*But since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1971, more than 1,500,000,000 babies have been killed in the womb all over the planet. **That is 1.5B babies !!***

www.worldometer.info

We always think about the US, but it is worldwide

*In the US alone, nearly 60M babies have been aborted since Roe v Wade was placed into law. **Please pray for this horrendous situation to be stopped in the US.***

I know many of us don't really want to hear this, or dwell on it, but we must pray for the Lord to come and set things right. It is imperative as watchmen on the wall, that when we see something all around us, we share it in hopes that we can both understand what is happening, and also have some effect on it.

As Christians and followers of Jesus, we need to pray continually for the evil to be stopped, and for a revival in the hearts of those who do not know or follow the Lord and His word.

Reminder...*hope in 2022*

Isa 46:10 paraphrased

*God knows the end from the beginning, and His will and purpose **will be done***

Romans 8:28

*²⁸ And we know that in **all** things **God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.***

John 14:27

*²⁷ Peace I leave with you; **my peace** I give you. ... **Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

Rom 12:12

*¹² **Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.***

Gen 8:11 11** When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked **olive leaf!** **Then Noah knew** that the water had receded from the earth...**look for the Olive Leaves to come from God

So... what have **we** learned from Paul?

When speaking to non-believers about the Lord,

- ***we need to speak in a language and words they will understand. Speak in terms that are not confusing***
- ***We need to speak in a way that makes us part of their group...family, sinners, unbelievers, building rapport.***
- ***We need to tell a story about what made us change and believe...OUR story.***
- ***We need to try and build a logical sequence of why we changed and why it is important.***
- ***We may not complete the story, but the HS will be guiding and leading, and we accept that result for the moment***

Like Paul, we must always maintain our composure, even if attacked

Acts 23:1 *the Sanhedrin firestorm...*

¹ *Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said,
“My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in
all good conscience to this day.”*

This is where we left off last week

Acts 23:2-5 *A rough start to the defense*

² At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.

*³ Then Paul said to him, “**God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!**”*

*⁴ Those who were standing near Paul said, “**How dare you insult God’s high priest!**”*

*⁵ Paul replied, “**Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.’¹**”*

Acts 23:6-10 *Quick thinking*

***6** Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.”*

***7** When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.*

***8** (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)*

***9** There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. “We find nothing wrong with this man,” they said. “What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”*

***10** The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks*

Acts 23:11 *Reassurance comes to Paul*

*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.”***

Paul had to be feeling depressed over his outburst in the Sanhedrin and the failure to get his message to the Sanhedrin members, but the Lord encouraged him.

Acts 23:12-15 *Plot hatched 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.**”*

Acts 23:16-22 *God's plan will not be deterred*

***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."*

Acts 23:23-24 *The Commanders Acts*

23 Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen (bowman) to go to Caesarea at nine tonight.

24 Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”

Acts 23:25-30

But not only that

²⁶ Claudius Lysias,

To His Excellency, Governor Félix:

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.

Acts 23:31-35

*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.

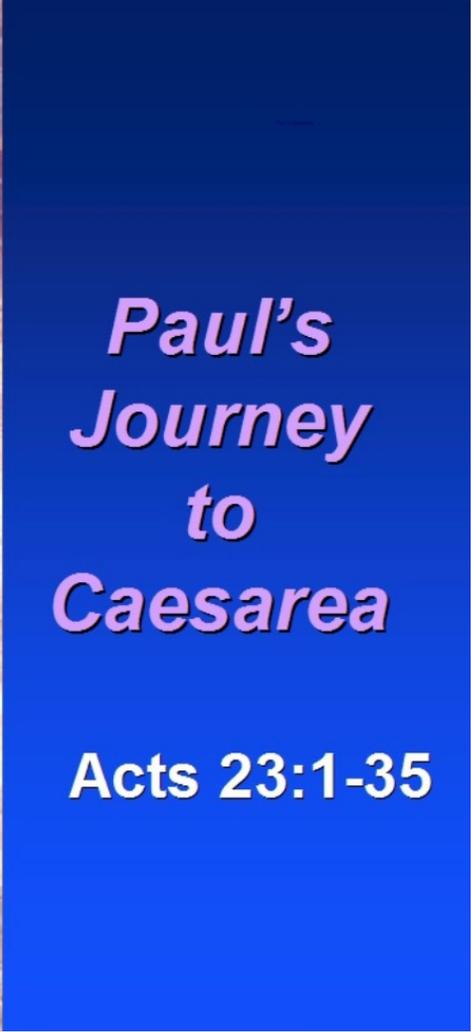
33 When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him.

*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**.*

Maps of the Route and Paul's Home city



Next week

- *Read **Acts 24** and come ready to discuss it*
- *Pray for your own discipline to follow God's lead and Spirit in 2022*
- *Pray for our Church, Pastors, and leaders*
- *Pray for our Country, Counties, and Leaders*
- *Pray for each other*
- *Pray for healing of all the Covid and serious cases in our class and families*