

Fear No Evil
Acts 23:12-35

Psalm 23:4 – Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

The Plot – (Religious Adults)

12 And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. **13** And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy. **14** And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul. **15** Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would inquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

Commitment to Evil

- Titus 1:16 – They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Company of Evil

- Matthew 18:6 – *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

Carelessness of Evil

- Matthew 22:36-39 – **36** Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? **37** Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* **38** *This is the first and great commandment.* **39** *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
- Romans 13:10 – Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore *love is* the fulfilling of the law.
- 2 Timothy 3:5 – Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

The Proclamation – (Righteous Child)

16 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul. **17** Then Paul called one of the centurions unto *him*, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him. **18** So he took him, and brought *him* to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto *him*, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee. **19** Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went *with him* aside privately, and asked *him*, What is that thou hast to tell me? **20** And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would inquire somewhat of him more perfectly. **21** **But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.** **22** **So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged *him*, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.**

Courage

- 2 Timothy 2:3-4 – **3** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **4** No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.
- 1 Samuel 17:33 – And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.
- 1 Samuel 17:37 – David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.

Care

- Luke 2:49 – And he said unto them, *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*
- 2 Timothy 3:15 – And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Character

- 1 Timothy 4:12 – Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

The Provision – (Reigning Authority)

23 And he called unto *him* two centurions, saying, **Make ready two hundred soldiers** to go to Caesarea, and **horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred**, at the third hour of the night; **24** And **provide *them* beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring *him* safe unto Felix the governor.** **25** And he wrote a letter after this manner:**26** Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix *sendeth* greeting. **27** **This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.** **28** **And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council:** **29** **Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.** **30** **And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what *they had* against him. Farewell.**

Leverage for Protection

- 1 Corinthians 1:26-28 – **26** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called:* **27** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; **28** And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

Letter of Portrayal

- Romans 10:3 – For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.
- Ephesians 4:18 – Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Loyalty to Prosecution

- Matthew 27:54 – Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

The Providence – (Reporting Soldiers)

31 Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought *him* by night to Antipatris. **32** On the morrow they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the castle: **33** Who, when they came to Caesarea, and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him. **34** And when the governor had read *the letter*, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that *he was* of Cilicia; **35** *I will hear thee*, said he, *when thine accusers are also come*. And he commanded him to be *kept in Herod's judgment hall*.

Opportunity to Minister

- Mark 13:9 – *But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.*

Opposition to be Ministered to

Occupancy to Minister