

Reflecting on Acts 23

Discussion Questions | October 23, 2022

Introduction: In Acts 23, Paul testifies before the Sanhedrin as the Roman tribune, Lysias, continues to observe his words and deeds. Later, God will use Lysias to protect Paul from the threat of death. From this story we learn the power of a faithful witness and our faithful God.

1. **Read Acts 23:1-11.** Have you ever shared the gospel before an unfriendly and unbelieving audience? If so, what were your biggest challenges? What can you learn from Paul's defenses that may prepare you to do this task more faithfully and effectively?*

2. **Read Luke 22:63-71 and John 18:19-23.** Compare Jesus' reactions in the latter two passages with Paul's reaction to Ananias in **Acts 23:1-5**. Do you think Paul responded appropriately? Why or why not?*

3. **Read Acts 23:12-30.** Outline the circumstances that God uses to protect Paul (e.g., Paul's nephew overhears the plot against him – verse 16). What do these verses teach us about the way God works to accomplish his purposes in our lives?*

4. **Read Acts 23:6-10, 26-30.** Based on these verses (as well as Paul's writings in other epistles), what can we learn from Paul's life about living as law-abiding citizens in an anti-Christian culture?*

5. **Read Acts 21:13-14.** In light of all that has happened to Paul since he uttered these words, it may seem difficult to accept that his suffering was part of God's will. What are some evidences (from chapters 21-23) that God is still working through Paul's circumstances for His glory and Paul's own good?

6. For the past two chapters, the Roman tribune Claudius Lystas has observed the life and behavior of the apostle Paul. Has God placed any unbelieving individuals in your life whom you consistently have the opportunity to show Christ to? How are you using these encounters to share the gospel?

7. **Read Acts 23:11.** What are some promises of God that you cling to when you are facing a trial? Discuss these as a group, then have one person close your time with a word of prayerful praise.

*These questions are based on questions from Tony Merida's commentary: *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Acts* (B&H Publishing Group, 2017)