



Sermon Discussion Guide

07.02.23 Message | Chuck Sackett | Acts 22:30-23:11

Key Scriptures:

But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?" Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'" Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?" And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

- Acts 22:30-23:11

Message Highlights:

- God alone is the ultimate Hero who sees the whole story and can do what needs to be done; our role is to trust in him.
- Witnessing is not just what we do, but who we are based on our character.
- When we pledge allegiance to Jesus, we declare that we will do the things that Jesus did and taught.
- Our message is the resurrection and our life & character are the mediums through which the message is given.



Conversation Starter:

Did you have a favorite superhero growing up? How are their superpowers or best qualities perfected and exemplified in the character of God, the ultimate Hero?

Discuss the Message:

1. Why does Paul say he is on trial in Acts 23:6?
 - a. How would you explain the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
 - b. What part of the resurrection message, whether Jesus' life, death & burial, resurrection or ascension, has impacted your spiritual journey the most?
 - c. How might considering the other aspects of the resurrection message shape your spiritual journey moving forward?
2. How does Paul demonstrate that we are meant to be Christ's witnesses in Acts 23?
 - a. Do your life and your character reflect your identity as a witness of Jesus? Why or why not?
 - b. Make a list of standing stones, or moments in your life when God worked in a powerful way. How can this list continuously strengthen your resolve as a Gospel witness?
3. What does the Lord tell Paul in Acts 23:11?
 - a. When do you find yourself struggling to obey the charge 'take courage'?
 - b. Why do you think it is or isn't difficult to trust in God and his sovereignty?

Pray:

God, thank you for exceeding our expectations of a Hero, a Savior and a loving Father. We appreciate the ways in which you rescue us from our sin and mistakes every day. We ask that you would help us continue to be receptive to your guidance and your message, making sure that we always act as witnesses to the resurrection through our character and our lives. Help us to see the beauty and magnitude of the Gospel as you see it, Lord, and not make your redemptive story for the world about ourselves. In Jesus' name, amen.