

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"Rome-ward Bound!"

Acts 23:23-35

[23] And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night; [24] and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor." [25] He wrote a letter in the following manner: [26] Claudius Lysias, To the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings. [27] This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. [28] And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before their council. [29] I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him deserving of death or chains. [30] And when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him. Farewell. [31] Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. [32] The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him, and returned to the barracks. [33] When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him. [34] And when the governor had read it, he asked what province he was from. And when he understood that he was from Cilicia, [35] he said, "I will hear you when your accusers also have come." And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's Praetorium.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God fulfill His plan for Paul to bear witness in Rome?
 - What role did Paul's nephew have in this? The commander's role?
 - How different do you think Paul is feeling now? What is he thinking?
2. Do you think it was necessary to have the entire entourage to escort Paul, since there were only about 40 Jews plotting to kill him? Why or why not?
3. Reread the letter written to the governor by the commander. Was it somewhat slanted? Were there any facts left out which occurred?
4. Think of a circumstance when you felt you were in dire straits, but in retrospect you can see God fulfilling His plan. Share how you have seen God's providence in this experience.
 - What did you learn from this experience?
 - How did you grow?

Reflect and Apply: Reflect on God's providence in Paul's situation. When we serve Him, it is expected to face trials. We know God is sovereign, yet our lack of faith causes us to worry. Read Mark 9:23-24. Pray and ask God to help your "unbelief" and trust (**T**alk to Him, **R**ead His Word daily, **U**nderstand who He is, **S**urround yourself with faithful believers, **T**hank Him).