

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) Five times the Gospel was proclaimed before the Jewish Supreme Court, and five times it was rejected.
- 2) 23:1 Paul knew he was innocent and had complete confidence that God was with him.
- 3) 23:1 It was customary to address the Sanhedrin as “rulers and elders of the people;” Paul addressed them as equals.
- 4) 23:1 After Paul became a Christian and the light of God’s glory shone into his previously darkened view (2 Corinthians 4:6), he viewed his earlier actions more accurately, realizing he was “the chief of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15).
- 5) 23:3 Paul had not been formally charged, much less convicted; he could not legally be beaten.
- 6) 23:5 Paul’s overriding sense of humility allowed him to immediately acknowledge his error of speaking against the high priest.
- 7) 23:6 Paul knew he would not receive a fair hearing, so he indirectly appealed to the Pharisees for support.
- 8) 23:7 The last thing the Pharisees would ever want to find themselves doing is defending Jesus, but the understanding and confidence in a future resurrection to eternal life was too big to ignore.
- 9) 23:7 Paul fanned the flame of friction between the Sadducees and Pharisees.
- 10) 23:8 Sadducees accepted only the Pentateuch as authoritative. Therefore they rejected any concept of an afterlife, claiming it was not found in those first five books. Pharisees believed in resurrection and eternal life. They could more easily become Christians, because they could remain Pharisees.
- 11) 23:9 So intense was the clash between the two parties that the Pharisees found themselves defending Paul.

- 12) 23:11 While Paul was alone in his cell—physically battered, discouraged, uncertain of his future—Jesus intervened and met him at the point of his need:
 - Jesus calmed Paul’s distressed heart.
 - Jesus celebrated Paul’s witness to the Jews.
 - Jesus gave Paul hope.

GREEK WORDS

Loidoreō—to revile, to insult, to abuse

TODAY’S SONGS

“Here For You” words and music by Tim Wanstall, Matt Redman, Matt Maher, and Jesse Reeves
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