



The Book of Acts

Living Holy in the Family of God

Volume 5

Chapters 21-25

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



Table of Contents

- 1. [Introduction](#)**
- 2. [Caesarea Sailing Today](#)**
- 3. [Jerusalem Arrival Today](#)**
- 4. [Temple Today](#)**
- 5. [Stairs Defense Today](#)**
- 6. [First Council Defense Today](#)**
- 7. [Conspiracy Today](#)**
- 8. [Flight to Caesarea Today](#)**
- 9. [Felix Today](#)**
- 10. [Festus Today](#)**
- 11. [Agrippa Today](#)**
- 12. [Conclusion](#)**

1

Introduction

Paul sailed from Miletus to be in Jerusalem by Passover. He knew that chains and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem, having been warned by the Holy Spirit in every city and from the prophets of God. Luke chronicled the islands they passed on the way to their landing in Caesarea.

Having arrived in Caesarea, the ministry team fellowshiped with the brethren there. They also picked up Mnason who would provide lodging for them in Jerusalem.

The brethren received Paul gladly when he arrived in Jerusalem, in stark contrast of the first time he came to Jerusalem after being converted on the Damascus Road. Paul recounted to them the missionary journeys and the great conversion of the Gentiles. A few days later Paul entered the Temple and the Jews from Asia launched a giant attack upon Paul. The Roman commander was called because the city was in an uproar over the false allegations about Paul defiling the Temple. The Roman commander brought Paul back to the barracks.

Paul then began a series of defenses, proclaiming the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ before the people assembled as he spoke from the stairs of the barracks and later as he spoke to the Jewish Council of religious leaders, partially fulfilling the prophecy of Jesus that Paul would bear His Name to people in authority. Paul recounted His testimony numerous times, focusing upon the Lord Jesus Christ and his own background as a persecutor of the church, a Pharisee and a devout man under the Law of Moses.

After Paul spoke to the Council, he was taken back to the barracks. A conspiracy of Jewish men arose seeking to kill Paul. The Roman commander learned of the conspiracy and sent Paul under armed guard to Caesarea to meet the governor. Paul made his first defense before Felix, the Roman governor there. Felix left Paul in jail for two years and then turned

him over to his successor, Festus. Paul again made a defense before Festus, and everyone agreed that Paul had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death. Finally, Festus invited King Agrippa of the Jews to hear Paul, hoping he might have something to write to Caesar, because Paul had appealed to Caesar when Festus tried to make him return to Jerusalem to be tried by the Jerusalem Council. Agrippa heard Paul's defense and likewise concluded he had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.

HALLELUJAH !

2

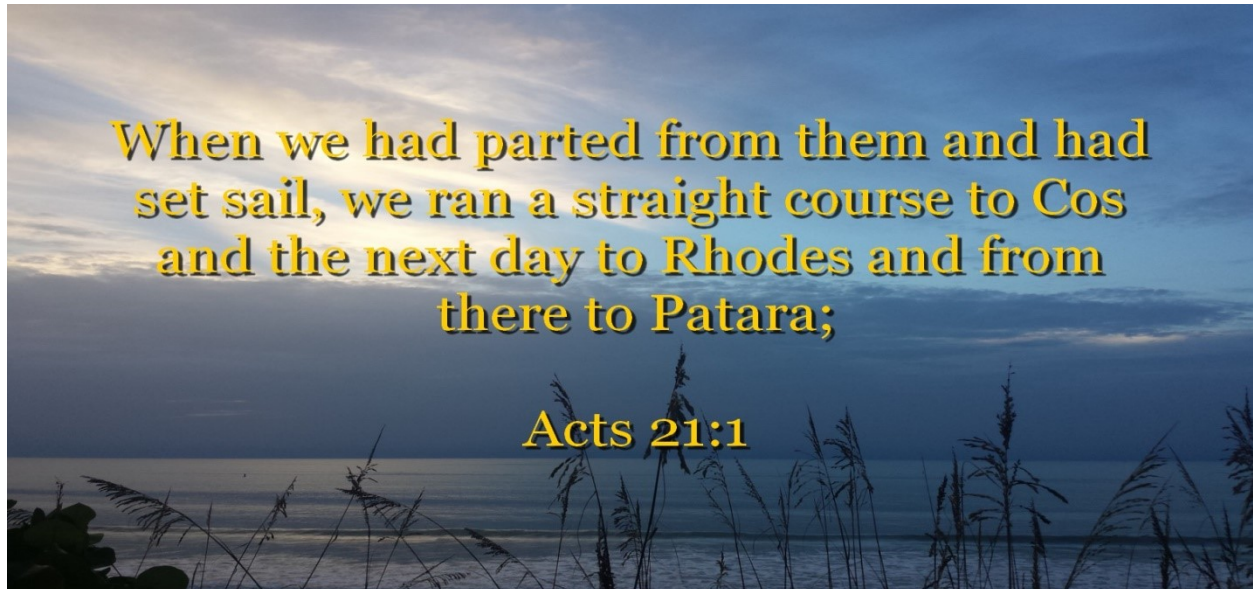
Caesarea Sailing Today

As Paul made his way from Miletus to Jerusalem, he sailed most of the way. Luke described sailing from Miletus past Cos, Rhodes and Patara, where they found a ship going to Phoenicia and landed at Tyre. Paul spent seven days with the brethren in Tyre. Paul then sailed on to Ptolemais and stayed with the brethren there for a day. When they arrived at Caesarea, they stayed with Philip the Evangelist. Agonist a prophet came down from Judea and warned Paul about going to Jerusalem because of bonds and afflictions awaiting him there. Some disciples from Caesarea accompanied Paul, including Mnason of Cyprus.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 742

Parted Today



What route did Paul take as he headed towards Jerusalem? Paul went to Patara.

Paul left Miletus and ran a straight course to Cos, an island about 40 miles from Miletus. From Cos they sailed to Rhodes, about 85 miles further. They then sailed on to Patara, another 70 miles.

Luke chronicled the maritime routes Paul traveled. They followed well-established commercial lanes. Traveling by ship saved time and effort. Yet, with storms and ships, troubles abounded for many sailors in the ancient world.

Paul traveled by ship to speed his journey to Jerusalem. Paul only stopped briefly at Miletus to see the Church Overseers there from the Ephesian church. Paul encouraged them to be on guard for the flock because he knew that savage wolves and perverted men would attack the flock from within and without.

Paul had been about three years at Ephesus and those people loved him. They kissed him and embraced him while they wept at his departure. He told them they would not see his face again.

Set Sail

1. **When**. When Paul left Miletus, what route did he take? Paul took a ship sailing along the coast of Asia Minor until it reached Patara.

2. **Parted**. Paul left the Church Overseers from Ephesus at Miletus and parted company with them there.

3. **Sail**. The ship set sail and ran a straight course to Cos.

4. **Straight**. Luke noted maritime details like running a straight course, which means that the ship had some kind of favorable winds.

5. **Cos**. Having sailed to Cos, Paul still had a ways to go because the journey cannot be completed in just one day.

6. **Rhodes**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the precise details Luke included in his maritime account of Paul sailing by the famous city of Rhodes as he was heading to Patara.

7. **Patara**. We rejoice today because Paul followed the sea routes to Patara, a jumping off point for the longer voyage across open sea to Phoenicia.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the accurate details of Scripture.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the classic landmarks that Paul passed as he journeyed towards Patara.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for keeping Paul safe as he traveled towards Jerusalem where he knew he would not be safe from bonds and afflictions.**

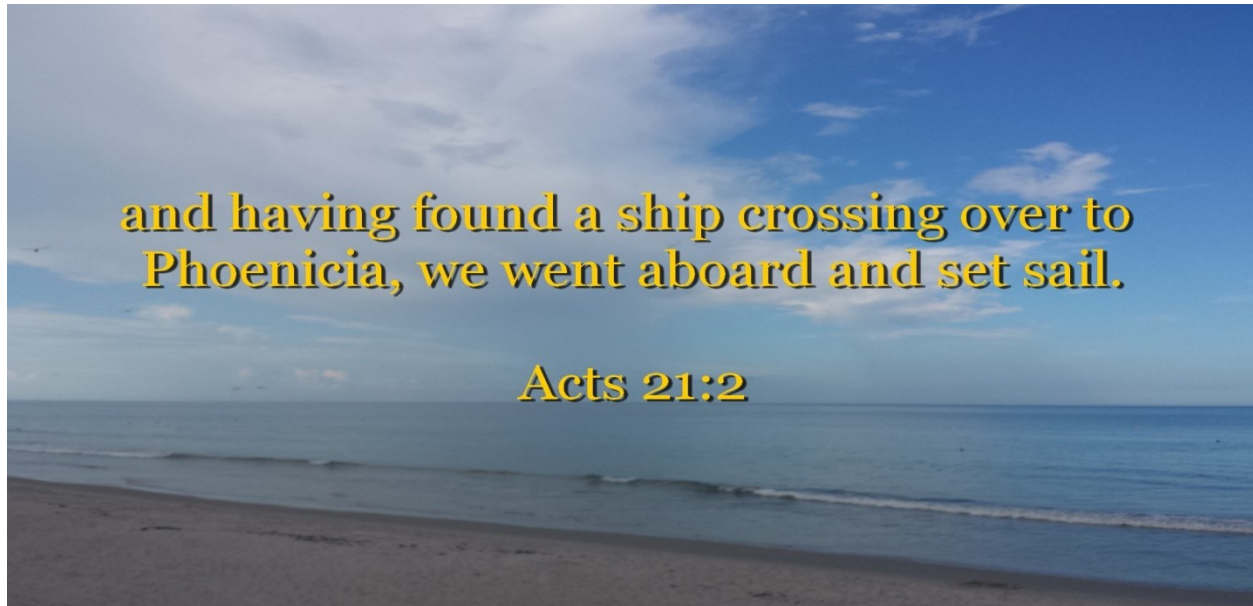
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul sailing along the beautiful coast of Turkey heading towards bonds and afflictions in Jerusalem. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the travels that come your way today because we never know what tomorrow may bring on earth?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 743

Ship Today



Where did Paul change ships? Paul changed ships at Patara.

The city of Patara lay on the southwest coast of Lycia. This maritime harbor at Patara lay at the mouth of the Xanthus River. At Patara, people like Paul could find other ships traveling to their intended destinations. Patara was somewhat like a major airport hub today, where people catch adjoining ships to travel another leg on their journey.

The journey from Patara to Phoenicia (Tyre) was about 400 miles. Phoenicia was well-known for its maritime exploits. The cities of Tyre and Sidon in Phoenicia sent people to see Jesus. They also were mentioned in prophetic revelations from God.

Paul was an experienced traveler by sea and land. When he traveled by sea, he often traveled with the ministry team. Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ wherever he went, as the Lord directed him. Paul was still heading towards Jerusalem and landing would bring him one step closer. Traveling the long distance from Patara to Phoenicia, Paul must have been looking forward to seeing dry land again. At long last, upon arrival in

Phoenicia, Jerusalem would not be that far away and he knew what awaited them there.

Aboard

1. **Found**. What happened at Patara? Paul changed ships.
2. **Ship**. Having landed at Patara, Paul found another ship to make the longer crossing to Syria.
3. **Crossing**. The crossing from Patara to Syria would take days across the open Mediterranean Sea.
4. **Phoenicia**. They were heading to Phoenicia, a maritime province in the Roman district of Syria.
5. **We**. Luke was traveling with Paul and wrote another of the “we” passages.
6. **Aboard**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul went aboard a ship sailing to Syria, where Paul would eventually make his way to Jerusalem, where bonds and afflictions awaited him.
7. **Sail**. We rejoice today because the ship set sail, carrying Paul and the missionary team on to Jerusalem, the place where Jesus had died and the prophets were persecuted and killed.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul sailing towards Jerusalem knowing what awaited him there.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following the leading of God through thick and thin.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for friends who travel with us as we journey towards the next destination God has placed before us.**

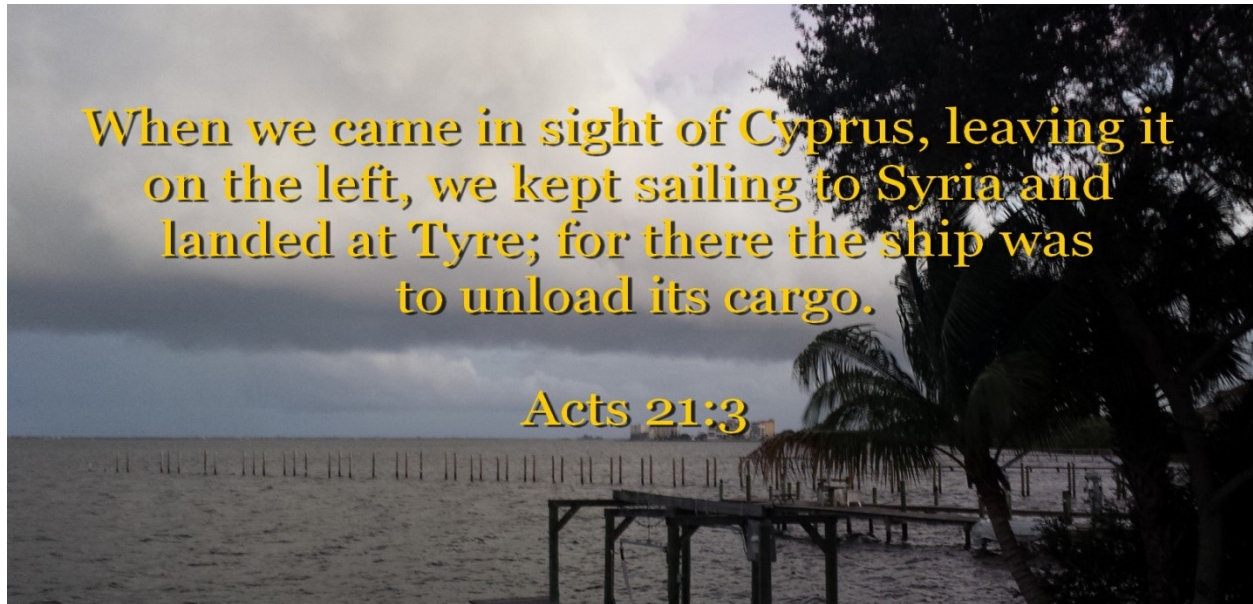
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide good transportation so that we reach His intended destination. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His travel mercies?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 744

Cyprus Today



What kind of ship was Paul traveling on? Paul was traveling on a cargo ship heading to Tyre where it would unload its cargo.

Luke described the ship coming inside of Cyprus as it journeyed towards Tyre. They left Cyprus on the left. Paul and Barnabas had gone to Cyprus on their first missionary journey and preached their way through the island. Barnabas was a Levite of Cyprian birth who donated the proceeds of his land sale to the church by laying it at the feet of the apostles in Jerusalem.

The ship left sight of Cyprus and continued on towards Syria. The ship landed at Tyre, a coastal city not far north of Israel. Jesus withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon during his ministry. Eventually He went out from the region of Tyre and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis.

Paul had come to Tyre, but was not yet finished with his sea voyage. He still had to journey to Jerusalem and one more short leg of the sea journey remained. Paul had traveled on a cargo ship and at Tyre the cargo was

unloaded. Paul had friends in many different places and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ had reached Tyre and Sidon.

Tyre

1. **When**. Why did Luke use the term “When”? Luke provided a narrative description of the sea journeys in the form of “when” statements marking the passage of time and distance.

2. **Cyprus**. The ship sailed past Cyprus, but came close enough for Luke to see it on board the ship as they passed by, leaving it on the left.

3. **Syria**. Having left Cyprus behind, the ship sailed on to Syria.

4. **Tyre**. The ship landed at Tyre in Phoenicia, on the coast north of Israel.

5. **There**. There the ship intended to unload its cargo, because Tyre was still a trading capital of the Mediterranean world and beyond.

6. **Ship**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that God provided precise details of the voyage by ship from Patara, describing how they reached port safely and brought Paul one step closer to Jerusalem.

7. **Cargo**. We rejoice today because nothing on board that ship as cargo was more precious than the life of Paul the apostle heading towards Jerusalem, the place of his afflictions and bonds.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by knowing God likes to include historical details about the travels of Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His attention to detail in all things.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul sailing on and on, heading straight towards bonds and afflictions in Jerusalem.**

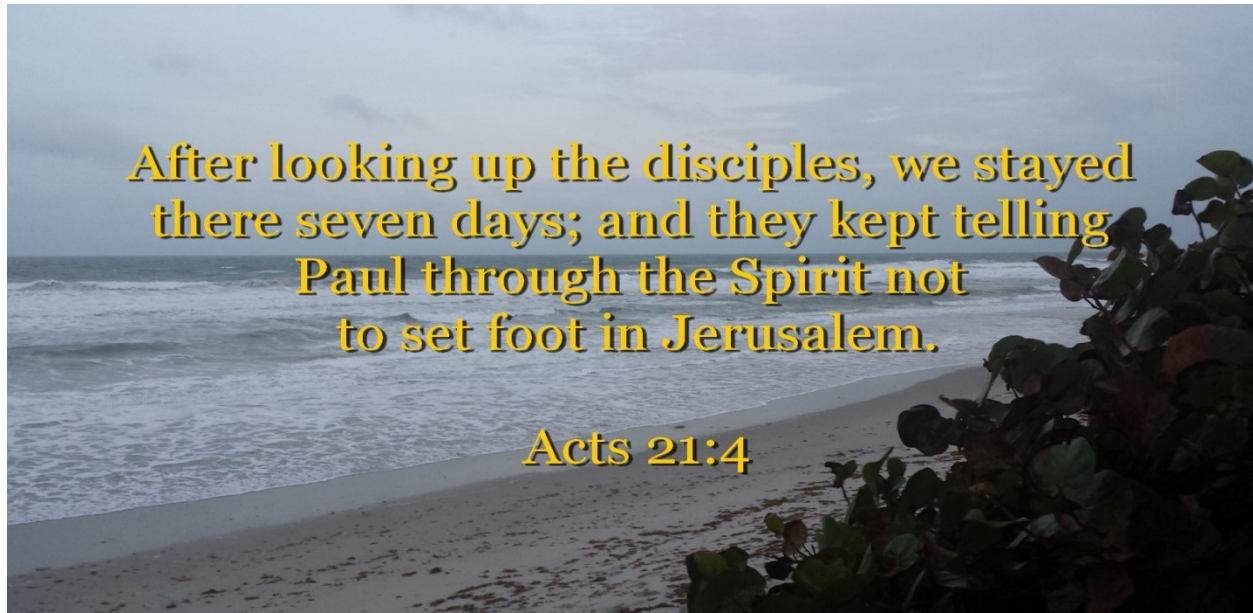
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sailing along towards God's destination with a calm assurance that He always controls the outcome. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going where God sends you, even when it takes many steps and days to get there?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 745

Stayed Today



Who did Paul see at Tyre? Paul looked up the brethren at Tyre and stayed there seven days.

Tyre received attention from the Old Testament prophets. They predicted the fall of Tyre. Before its fall, it served as a center of commerce and wealth. Its maritime trade brought great profits to its business community. Its spiritual arrogance and idolatry, however, ultimately spelled its doom because God brought judgment upon Tyre.

The disciples kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. Paul, however, already knew what awaited him in Jerusalem. Paul loved spending time with other Christians. Paul made a point of looking up the brethren at Tyre. Paul typically strengthened and encouraged the churches as he passed through the area. Although Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem by Pentecost, he made time to spend a whole week at Tyre with the brothers there. Paul loved people, particularly other Christians.

Paul did not know the details of what awaited him at Jerusalem. He only knew God wanted him to go there. His friends warned him not to go,

but He knew God wanted him to go Jerusalem, no matter what happened to him.

1. **Looking**. What did Paul do when he reached Tyre? He looked up the disciples there.

2. **Disciples**. Paul looked up the disciples so that he could encourage and exhort them and enjoy their fellowship.

3. **We**. Luke again included that “we” statement, so that everyone would know that Paul was not traveling alone.

4. **Stayed**. Paul stayed with the disciples at Tyre for seven days.

5. **Seven**. By spending seven days there, Paul knew he could still arrive on time in Jerusalem because he was much closer now than before.

6. **Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit revealed to the disciples in Tyre, and elsewhere, that Paul faced bonds and afflictions in Jerusalem.

7. **Foot**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit revealed to the disciples at Tyre that bonds and afflictions awaited Paul in Jerusalem, and so they warned Paul not to set foot in Jerusalem, not understanding the full significance of the revelation given to them by the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by being careful to understand the full context of revelations from God in the Bible.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by enjoying missionaries who stop over and spend a few days with us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to give us time with fellow travelers as all of us journey towards God's final destination for us.**

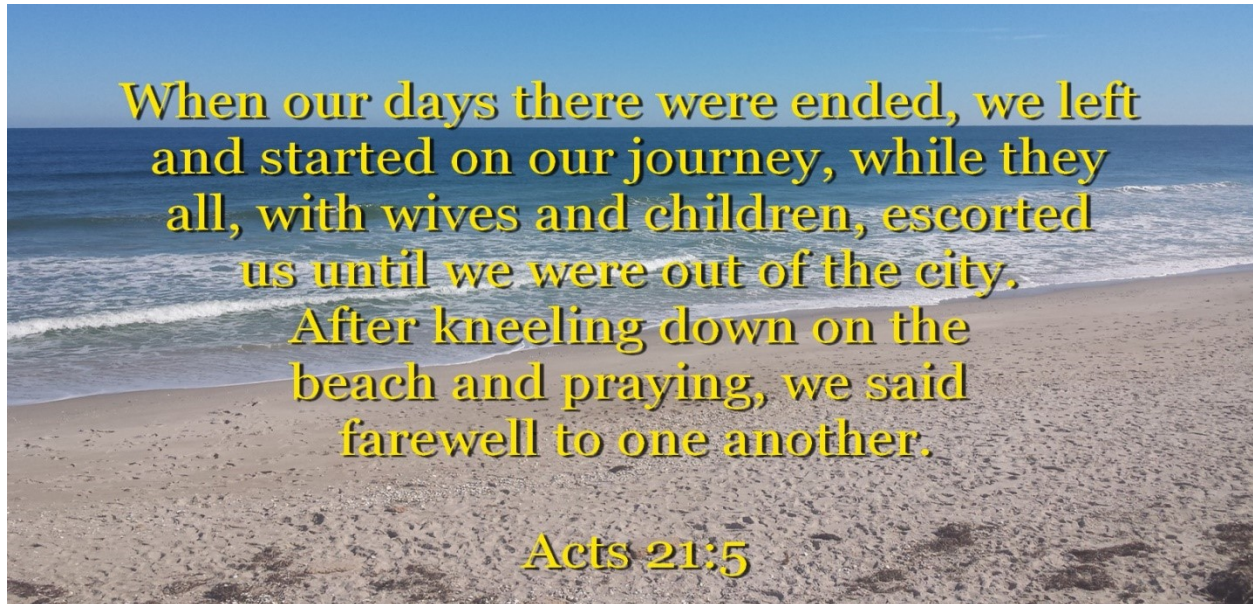
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by warning spiritual friends to avoid trouble when possible, knowing that sometimes God sends His children directly into trouble. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God who leads us every day to accomplish His will so that we end up at the right place at the right time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 746

Escorted Today



Who escorted Paul away from Tyre? The brethren, including the wives and children.

Paul spent seven days at Tyre. The disciples there kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. Paul had already heard the Holy Spirit telling him in every city that bonds and afflictions awaited him at Jerusalem. Paul had faced bonds and afflictions before, as part of his ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Paul prepared to leave Tyre, the brethren and their wives and children escorted him out of the city and down to the beach. At the beach they knelt down and prayed. Then they said farewell to one another.

I truly enjoy the beautiful picture of the disciples and their families with Paul and the missionaries bowing their knees on the beach. They all knew that trouble awaited Paul in Jerusalem. They also knew that Paul was going where God had directed. The Holy Spirit wanted everybody along the way to know that Paul was fully aware that bonds and afflictions awaited him at Jerusalem, but he was going there anyway.

Praying

1. **When**. Where did Paul pray with the brethren? Paul prayed with the brethren and their families on the beach.
2. **Ended**. After Paul's stay at Tyre ended, the time had come for his departure for more sea travel.
3. **Left**. As Paul left Tyre, the brethren with their wives and children walked with Paul.
4. **All**. All of them served as an escort for Paul and the missionaries.
5. **Escorted**. They escorted them down to the beach because they wanted to send Paul off in good style.
6. **Kneeling**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and the brethren and their wives and children all gathered on the beach for prayer together, kneeling down and humbling themselves before God.
7. **Beach**. We rejoice today because Paul and the brethren with their wives and children, along with all the missionaries, knelt down together on the beach at Tyre and prayed together.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking wives and children with us to spend time with missionaries.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by gathering together to kneel on a beach, praying as a group in public.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sending missionaries on their way in beach-style prayer.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by gathering the family together to spend with missionaries. Will you live holy in the family of God today by walking with missionaries and praying with them as they leave?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 747

Ship Today



What happened after they knelt down and prayed together on the beach? The missionaries got on board the ship and the brethren with their families returned home again.

Paul spent significant time in many different places. He was known as Saul of Tarsus, but it also spent significant time in Jerusalem and had been instructed by Gamaliel and then persecuting the church. Perhaps Paul would call Antioch his new home because he kind of made it a home base for missionary work. He left from there and returned to there.

Jesus had grown up in Nazareth after being born in Bethlehem. After the baptism of Jesus, He never really went back to Nazareth to stay there. He apparently visited there twice, but His own family and relatives and the people of Nazareth all rejected Him as Savior, with a few exceptions. Jesus then made Capernaum His home base, but He truthfully testified that He had no place to lay His head.

While the brethren at Tyre went home again, Paul journeyed on towards Jerusalem. He knew the trouble awaited him, but he also knew that God directed him to be there and would provide for him.

Home

1. **Then**. Where did the brethren and their families go when Paul and the missionaries left? They went home.

2. **We**. Luke used the term “we” again to describe the missionaries getting on board with Paul.

3. **Went**. The missionaries went on board the ship still heading to Jerusalem.

4. **Board**. At this point, the missionaries had boarded many ships, and now went on board the final ship in their journey to Jerusalem.

5. **Ship**. Paul spent many days on a ship traveling for Jesus and he also spent a night and a day in the deep after suffering shipwreck.

6. **Returned**. Living holy in the family of God means that while missionaries travel on, the local brethren return to their homes and families and nice warm beds.

7. **Home**. We rejoice today because the local brethren had nice homes and they shared them with Paul and the missionaries who were far away from home.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God we have homes to return to and families living together.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the missionaries traveling far from home and giving them a nice place to live there for a time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the people who love missionaries and love to give them a home away from home.**

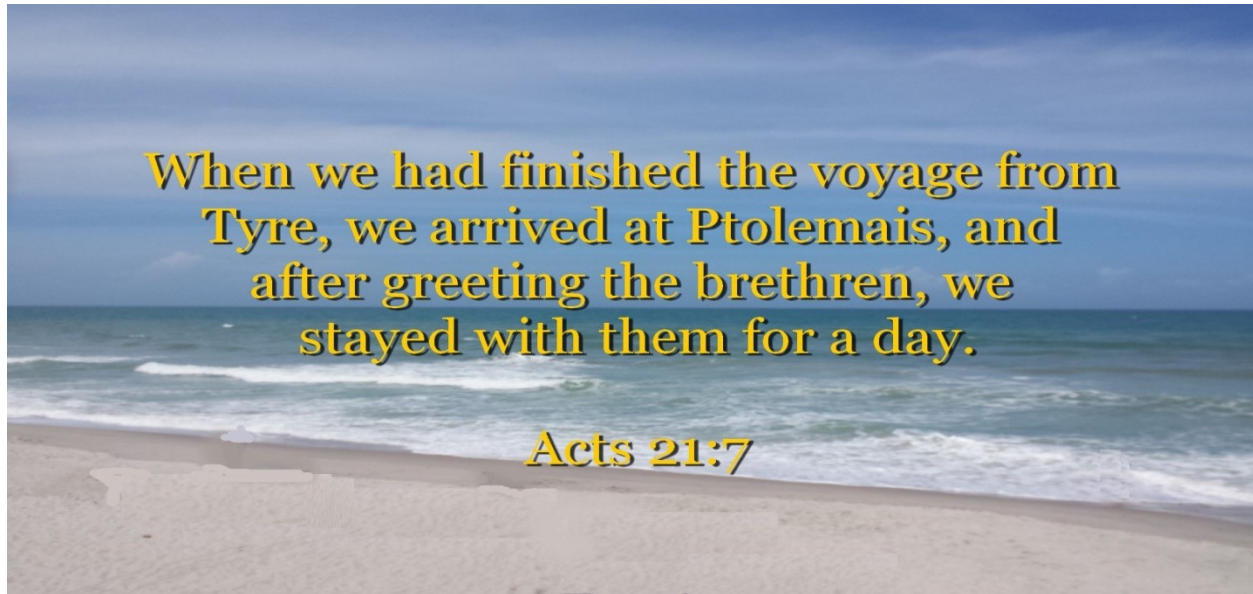
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking in missionaries and providing them food and lodging. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending time with missionaries before they get on the next ship, heading off to God's next step on the journey?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 748

Arrived Today



After leaving Tyre, where was Paul going? Paul was headed to Ptolemais.

Ptolemais lies about 25 miles south of Tyre and towards Jerusalem. Following his usual custom, Paul greeted the brethren and stayed with them. In this case Paul only stayed one day at Ptolemais.

Luke, under the inspiration of God, recorded very little about what happened at Ptolemais. Paul met with the brethren. Paul had a custom of encouraging the brethren with words and strengthening the church. Paul also had vast experience traveling to all the churches and often people loved to hear about the journeys of the missionaries.

Paul had an itinerary of churches to visit on the way to Jerusalem. He had not yet reached Jerusalem, but had one more stop to make between Jerusalem at Ptolemais. Paul loved the churches and spent time with many different churches on the way to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had not revealed to him the precise details of what would happen in Jerusalem when he got

there. Even so, the brethren warned him in the Holy Spirit about what awaited him at Jerusalem.

Greeting

1. **Finished**. Where did they go from Tyre? They went to Ptolemais.
2. **Voyage**. Paul and the missionaries were about to complete their long sea voyage hopping along the coast of Turkey and then hopping along the coast north of Israel.
3. **Ptolemais**. At Ptolemais Paul met some more brethren.
4. **Greeting**. Greeting the brethren, Paul and the missionaries stayed in the lodging provided for them.
5. **Stayed**. Paul stayed with other saints and their families, knowing that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem which was growing ever closer.
6. **Them**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and the missionaries took time to stay with the saints and their families in various cities along the way to Jerusalem.
7. **Day**. We rejoice today because although Paul stayed just one day with the brethren at Ptolemais, Paul had once again greeted the saints and encouraged them in the Lord.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time on long journeys to greet the brethren and spend time with them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by greeting missionaries who have taken the time to encourage the local brethren and their families.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul went house to house and from city to city and from saints to saints as he traveled to Jerusalem.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time and making time to spend with the brethren for their benefit and ours as we travel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending some time with the local brethren as you travel to a distant destination?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 749

Philip Today



Where did Paul go after Ptolemais? Paul left and came to Caesarea.

Peter went to Caesarea and spoke to Cornelius the centurion. While Peter was proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ to the group gathered to hear him there, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles. Peter had already had a vision from God in which God said that whatever He had cleansed, no man should consider unclean. Peter suddenly understood that the Gentiles were saved by faith and filled with the Holy Spirit, just like the Jews at Pentecost.

Caesarea was a Roman maritime city. With its seaport, travelers came and went. Paul arrived by ship and went to the house of Philip the evangelist. Philip the evangelist had gone into Samaria and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself had already planted seeds at Sychar of Samaria with the woman at the well. After the woman met Jesus and then returned to town, the whole city came out to see Jesus and many believed in the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Philip had also been directed by the Holy Spirit to meet the Ethiopian eunuch on the desert road leading down to Gaza. The Ethiopian eunuch had

come to Jerusalem to worship and return to the court of Candace in Ethiopia, having received the Lord Jesus Christ and been baptized by Philip, who was one of the seven.

Evangelist

1. **Next**. How long did the voyage from Ptolemais to Caesarea take? They arrived the same day.

2. **Caesarea**. Caesarea was a Roman seaport city about 54 miles from Jerusalem.

3. **House**. Having arrived and Caesarea, Philip the evangelist invited the missionaries to stay at his home.

4. **Philip**. Philip had spent his life sharing the gospel with people, particularly doing work in Samaria and meeting the Ethiopian eunuch on the desert road leading to Gaza.

5. **Evangelist**. As an evangelist, Philip traveled from place to place sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Seven**. Living holy in the family of God means that Philip was one of the seven men chosen to be in charge of the ministry of feeding the Hellenistic widows in Jerusalem. He was known as a man full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit.

7. **Stayed**. We rejoice today because Paul and the missionaries had time to spend with Philip the evangelist in Caesarea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by enjoying the time the Lord puts saints together so that iron sharpens iron.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Philip and inviting Paul and the missionaries to stay with him in Caesarea.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by opening our homes and spending time with people heading to a very dangerous destination, according to the will of God.**

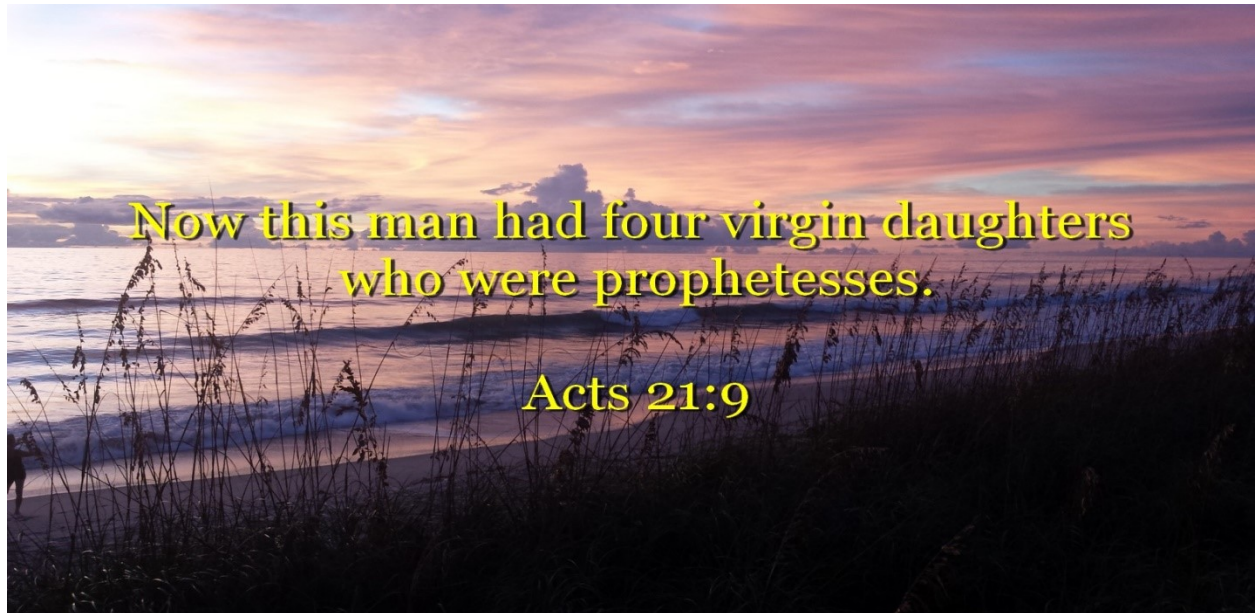
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for putting people in our lives who will open their homes and provide fellowship and lodging as we head on to the dangerous times. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to encourage fellow travelers who know that bonds and afflictions await them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 750

Daughters Today



What kind of daughters did Philip have? Philip had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses.

The New Testament provides very little information about the daughters of Philip. A person with The Spiritual Gift of the Prophets receives revelations from God and passes them on to the people. In the New Testament church, the prophets provided revelation about the will of God for the church. Paul wished that more of the saints at Corinth would become prophets rather than speaking in tongues. Prophecy was a sign to those who believe. The prophets spoke clearly about the revelation they received from God.

At Corinth Paul gave directions that if anyone had a prophecy from God, then that male could stand up in the church and speak his prophecy. Only two or three prophets could speak in the public meeting, with each one waiting his turn. The spirit of the prophets was always subject to the prophets.

Philip was blessed to have four virgin daughters who were also prophetesses. They use their spiritual gifts to the glory of God when they explained the revelations that God gave to them.

Prophetesses

1. **Now**. Who were the prophetesses? Philip's daughters were prophetesses.
2. **Man**. The man had four daughters.
3. **Four**. Any man with four daughters should feel blessed by God, because all children are a blessing from God.
4. **Virgin**. Philip's daughters were also virgins.
5. **Daughters**. The four daughters of Philip the Evangelist apparently did not have the same spiritual gift as their father.
6. **Were**. Living holy in the family of God means that God gave Philip the evangelist four virgin daughters who were all prophetesses.
7. **Prophetesses**. We rejoice today because God bestowed a marvelous spiritual gift of revelation upon the four virgin daughters of Philip the evangelist who were prophetesses.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the four virgin daughters of Philip the Evangelist.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that not all daughters prophesy, but every daughter in Christ has a spiritual gift.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by promoting the ministries of daughters so that they use their spiritual gifts to the glory of God.**

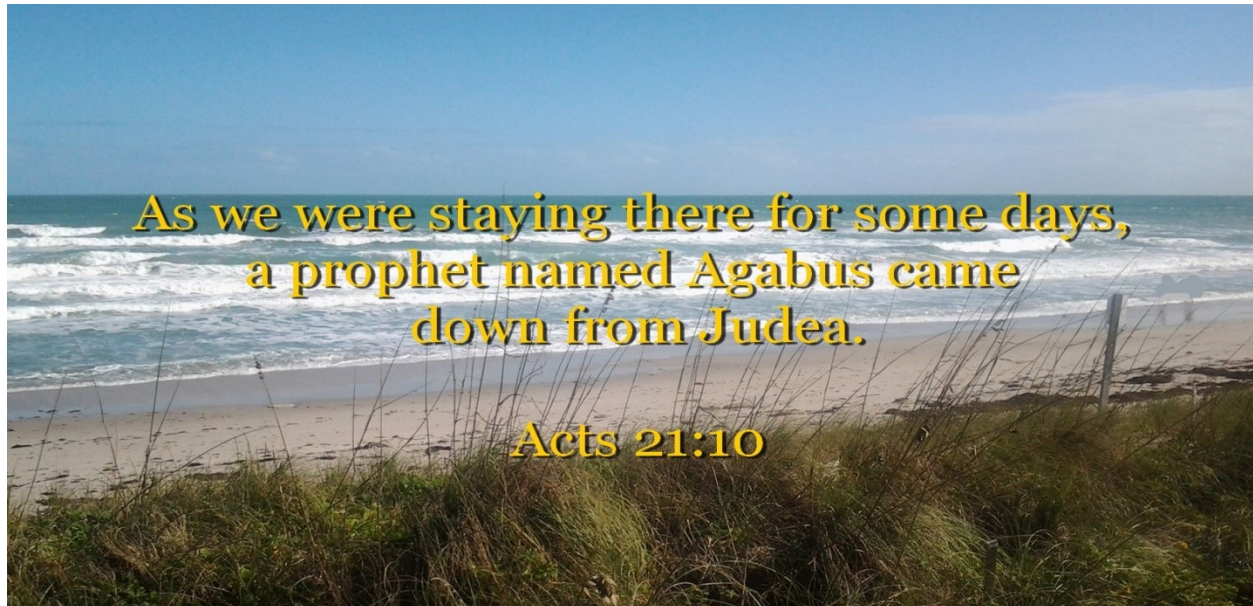
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the daughters He gives to fathers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by promoting the ministries of women and daughters to the glory of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 751

Prophet Today



Who was Agabus? He was a prophet who came to Caesarea from Judea.

Both the Old Testament and New Testament contain revelations about prophets. In the days of Samuel, Elijah and Elisha some prophets grouped together. They had a community of prophets where they lived and served together. In the New Testament, Jesus baptized all saints with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. The Spiritual Gift of The Prophets was known for the first time after Pentecost. Paul discussed the gift of the prophets in first Corinthians. God provided rules and regulations for the prophets and their conduct in the church.

Agabus came down from Judea as a prophet. We already know that the Holy Spirit had already testified to Paul directly and through other people. The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God and reveals them to us, as God deems best. Agabus was coming with a message for Paul and the people around him.

Agabus provides a very good illustration of how prophecy works. Some people claim that the New Testament knew two kinds of prophecy: (1) true

prophecy; and (2) prophecy mixed with error. Of course, God never lies and so God only gives true prophecy without any error. Agabus always spoke the truth when he prophesied for God.

Agabus

1. **Staying**. Paul and the missionaries were staying at Caesarea.
2. **Days**. They had landed there a few days before after their trip from Ptolemais.
3. **Prophet**. Throughout the Bible God used prophets to communicate His revelations to men.
4. **Agabus**. Agabus brought a revelation from God to the people at Caesarea.
5. **Came**. Agabus came down from Jerusalem to Caesarea for the purpose of delivering a revelation from God.
6. **Down**. Living holy in the family of God means that Caesarea was a seaport, while Judea was a more mountainous region, so that Agabus came down to Caesarea.
7. **Judea**. We rejoice today because Agabus left Judea because God had an appointment for him to meet Paul, the other missionaries, and the people they were staying with.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the men who traveled to bring the revelations of God to the intended destination.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God used prophets of the early church to communicate absolute truth from God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God who reveals the truth to the church through prophets.**

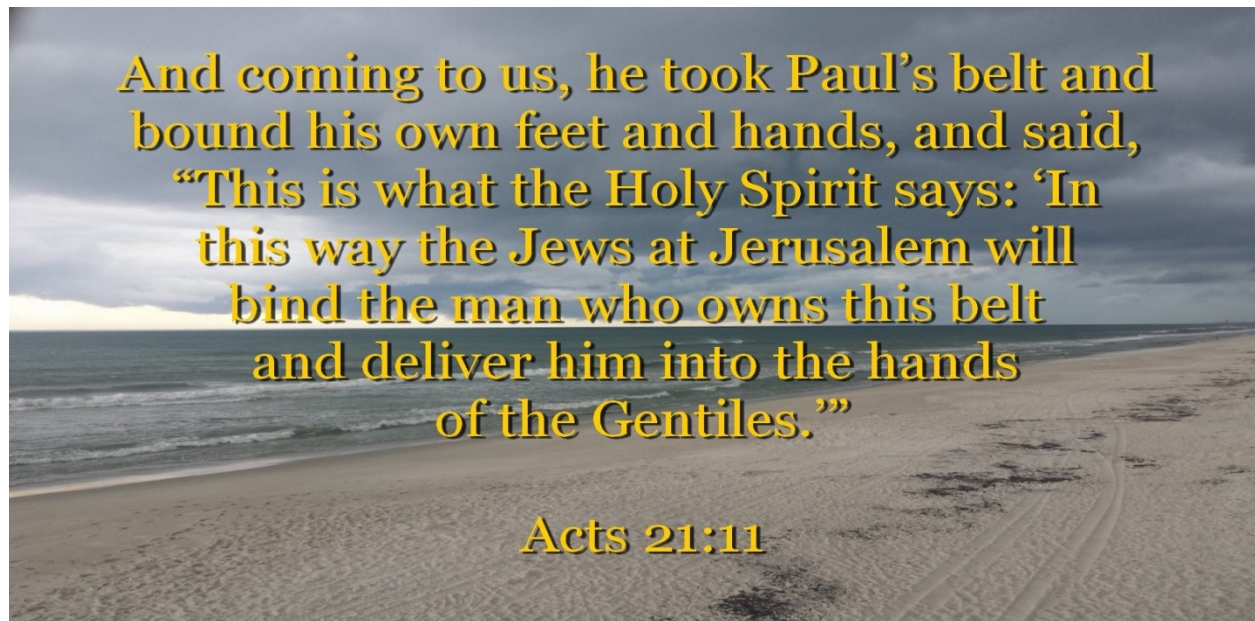
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Agabus the prophet coming to see Paul with a revelation from God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by cherishing the revelations from God contained in the Bible?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 752

Bound Today



What did Agabus do with his own hands and feet? Agabus bound his own hands and feet.

When Agabus arrived in Caesarea with a message for Paul and the others there, he bound his own hands and feet. Like true and false prophets before him, Agabus delivered the revelation from God with visual aids.

After binding his own hands and feet, he said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says". The Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. Agabus' prophecy was very specific. The Jews would bind him and then deliver him to the Gentiles.

Some people today contend that Agabus got the details wrong here. Of course, God never gets the details wrong. Furthermore, Agabus delivered the prophecy he received from God and his prophecy came true verbatim. Agabus envisioned a two-step process. First, Paul would be bound by the Jews. Second, the Jews would then hand Paul bound over to the Gentiles. This pattern would follow the arrest of Jesus. The Jewish authorities arrested Jesus and then turned Him over bound to the Gentiles. Pilate was the Roman

governor who tried and convicted Jesus and sentenced Him to death, all the while knowing Jesus was a completely innocent Man.

Deliver

1. **Coming**. What message did Agabus bring? Agabus brought the message about Paul being bound hand and foot.

2. **Us**. Luke used the “us” term to describe the audience for Agabus, which included more than Paul.

3. **Belt**. Agabus took the belt from Paul and bound his own hands and feet.

4. **Bound**. By binding his own hands and feet, Agabus not only proclaimed the word of revelation from God, but he also demonstrated it graphically.

5. **Spirit**. Agabus said what the Holy Spirit told him to say.

6. **Jews**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provided further revelation concerning the bonds and afflictions that were waiting Paul at Jerusalem. Specifically, the Jews would bind Paul in Jerusalem.

7. **Gentiles**. We rejoice today because God gave Paul a further revelation that not only would the Jews bind Paul, but they would hand him over to the Gentiles, just like they did with Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by giving our attention to the prophecies of God contained in the Bible and noting their details.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing that God wants us to not only hear His prophecies, but also to heed them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the prophets who faithfully proclaimed the revelations that God gave to them so that people would be built up in their most holy and precious faith.**

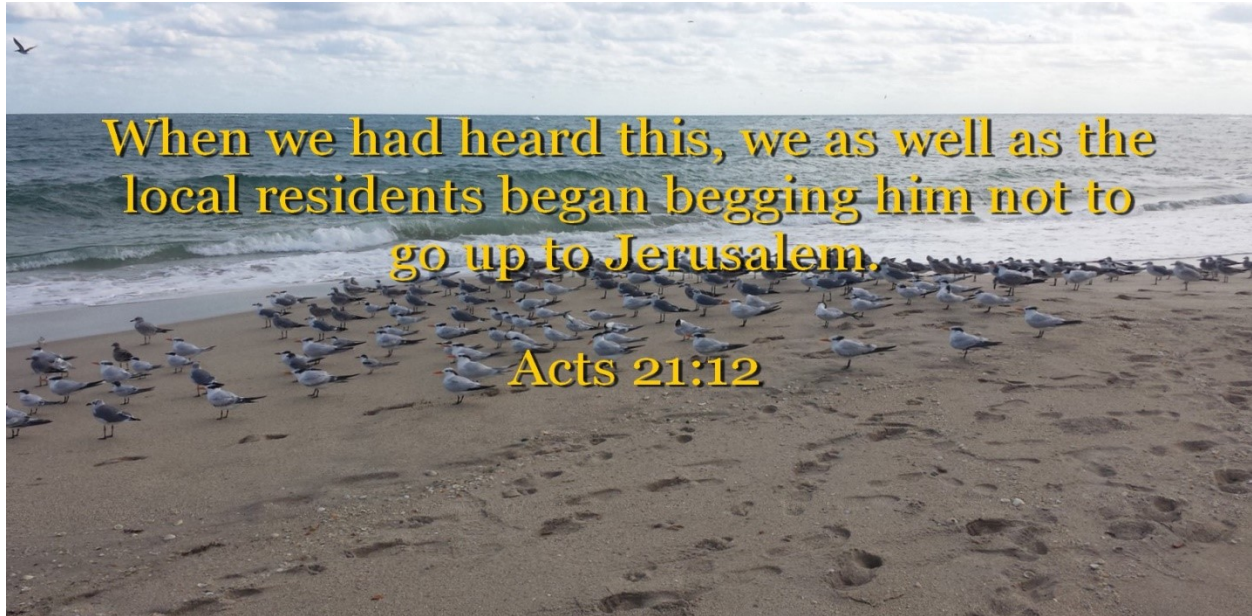
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by giving heed to the prophecies of God, according to the purpose for which He gave the revelation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening carefully to the prophecies from God and noting the details?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 753

Heard Today



What effect did the prophecy of Agabus have upon the audience? The missionaries and the local residents began begging Paul not to go to Jerusalem.

While Agabus perfectly delivered the prophecy, the audience did not comprehend the significance of the prophecy. Agabus did not deliver a message telling Paul not to go to Jerusalem. People frequently misunderstand the revelations of God in the Bible by letting their own hopes and fears and dreams interfere with what God was telling them.

Agabus delivered the message from God that Paul would face bonds and afflictions in Jerusalem. Now God provided some greater detail. The new detail was that the Jews would bind Paul and deliver him to the Gentiles. Notice the prophecy did not contain any command to avoid Jerusalem.

Therefore, God gave Paul more information, but the brunt of the prophecy was clearly for the people hearing the message rather than Paul. God wanted everyone to know that He was sending Paul to Jerusalem and Paul already knew what would happen to him when he got there. Paul was

willing to go to Jerusalem and face physical suffering and be subjected to the government's authority to try him as a criminal. Paul knew that in all things he would find fruitful ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ, even in bonds and afflictions. The prophecy helped everyone else understand that Paul was going to Jerusalem with full knowledge of what was coming.

Begging

1. **When**. How did the audience respond to Agabus? They begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem.

2. **We**. The “we” indicates that Luke was with Paul in Caesarea.

3. **Residents**. The local residents were also gathered with Paul.

4. **Begging**. Upon hearing the message, they all began begging Paul not to go to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit never said that Paul should not go to Jerusalem.

5. **Him**. The Holy Spirit revealed that Paul would be bound and delivered in Jerusalem, but the audience did not consider that Paul already knew that and the prophecy was more for them than for Paul.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that when the people begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem, they were not heeding the prophecy of God, but setting their minds on their own personal interests and not God's will for Paul.

7. **Jerusalem**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit always tells the truth. He revealed that Paul would go to Jerusalem and face arrest and deliverance into the hands of the Roman Gentiles. Great ministry awaited Paul in Jerusalem and elsewhere, all according to the infinite plans of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by distinguishing the revelation from God from our own hopes and dreams and sense of right and wrong.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by listening to the details of the prophecy so that we overcome our own desires and thoughts which blind us to the truths of God revealed in the revelation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by opposing the work of the Holy Spirit by reading more into the prophecy than God actually revealed.**

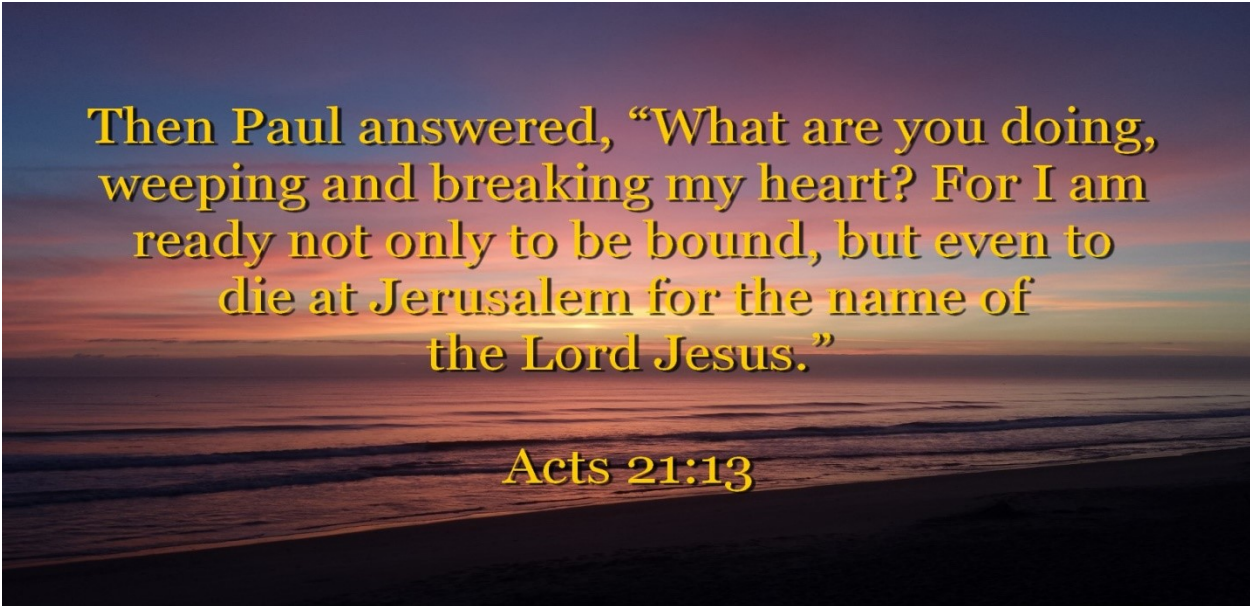
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by heeding the prophecies of God without twisting them to say things God never revealed. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His loving kindness and patience with us when we do not fully comprehend His prophecies and purposes?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 754

Answered Today



Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Acts 21:13

Why did Paul ask the audience why they were weepy and breaking his heart? Because Paul was ready to go to Jerusalem and be bound and even die there for the name of the Lord Jesus.

The prophecy of Agabus focused the attention of the people upon the courage of Paul given to him by the Lord Jesus. Paul had absolute confidence in Christ that if he was to go to Jerusalem and be bound there and even die there, that he was fully prepared to follow the will of God wherever it led and whatever it meant.

Paul also let his friends know that he appreciated their deep concern for him, but the tears were breaking his heart. Paul was not weeping his way to Jerusalem as he traveled from place to place. Paul was demonstrating the power of Jesus Christ in his life to follow Jesus to Jerusalem and take what would come to him by the will of God. Paul was no stranger to bonds and affliction and had been stoned to the point of death. Paul did not know if he would lay down his life in Jerusalem, but he was certain that God wanted him to be there and that is all he really needed to know. He did not want

others to suffer, but the Holy Spirit had sent Agabus so that everyone would understand what was in front of Paul and his willingness to undergo all that the Lord Jesus Christ had for him at Jerusalem.

Ready

1. **What**. What did Paul want to know from the audience? He wanted to know why they were weeping and breaking his heart.

2. **Weeping**. The audience was weeping when they heard the prophecy of Agabus.

3. **Breaking**. There weeping, however, was breaking Paul's heart.

4. **Heart**. Paul had a very strong heart, because he was resolute in his determination to go to Jerusalem, following the will of God.

5. **Ready**. Paul told the audience that he was not only willing to go to Jerusalem and suffer, but he was also willing to give up his very life for the cause of Christ.

6. **Die**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the way Paul viewed death as service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Name**. We rejoice today because Paul was willing to not only be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem, for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by living with the conviction that God can use both our life and our death to His glory.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by not distracting people from doing God's will with our emotions.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God calls different people to different things, and some of those things may bring tears to our eyes.**

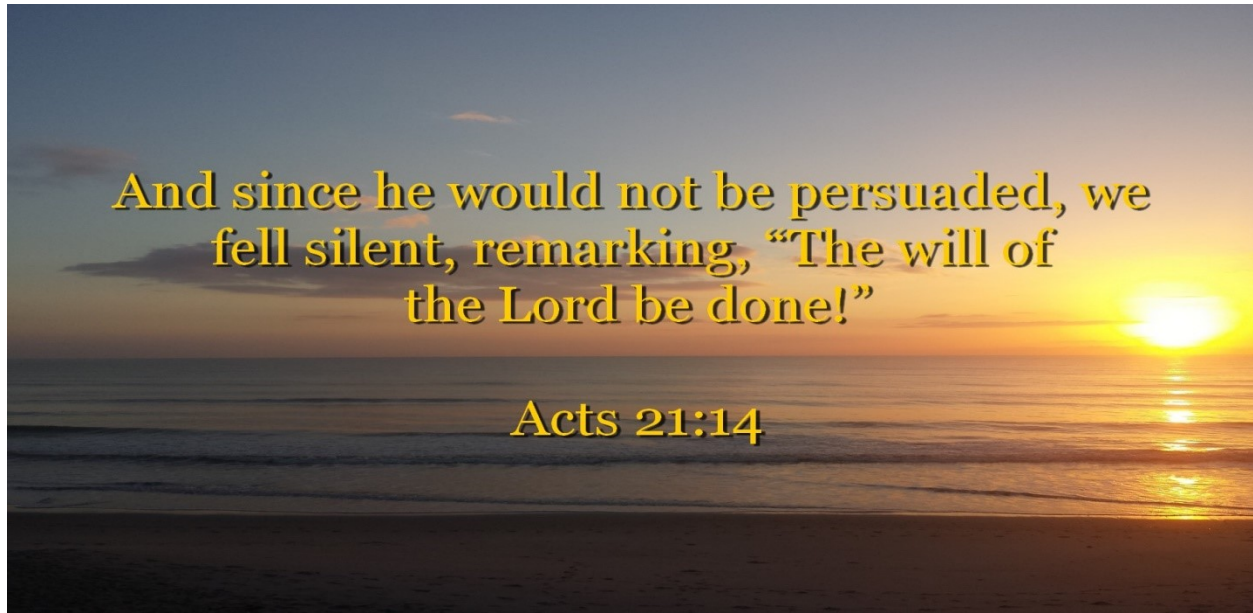
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by setting our minds on doing what God wants, particularly what He wants for other people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God does not always cause us to live without pain and troubles for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 755

Silent Today



After failing to dissuade Paul about going to Jerusalem, what did the people tell Paul? They told Paul: "The will of the Lord be done!"

You may recall the story of Peter taking the Lord Jesus aside and forbidding Him from going to Jerusalem. Jesus responded to Peter and said, "Get behind me Satan." Peter was setting his mind on the things of men and not on the things of God. Jesus was going to Jerusalem to purchase redemption for all humanity and then be resurrected on the third day. He suffered then with glory to follow.

Because salvation had already been purchased once and for all by Jesus Christ, Paul was not going to Jerusalem to be a savior or redeemer. God sent Paul to Jerusalem to testify before kings and governors and others in authority about the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul would continue his ministry in a variety of different ways and in different forms. Paul's work was not ending, but transitioning to a new phase with new people to reach. Paul had already planted churches and established disciples in many different places, so his

presence there was no longer needed. The churches would thrive without him, provided they continued in the word of the Lord.

Remarking

1. **Since**. What effect did the audience have upon Paul? Paul would not be persuaded by their words and tears.

2. **Not**. Paul did not obey the audience and give in to their emotions, because he had already given his life and heart to the Lord Jesus Christ to do His will first and foremost.

3. **Persuaded**. Though the audience tried to persuade Paul, he was not persuaded by them because he did not hold his own life dear.

4. **Silent**. When the audience understood they could not move Paul away from his determination to go to Jerusalem, they fell silent.

5. **Will**. They began to understand the will of God for Paul.

6. **Lord**. Living holy in the family of God means that we should never let our emotions and tears cloud the ability to heed the word of God and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit for ourselves and others.

7. **Done**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ will let us know when our work on earth has been accomplished, but until our work is done for Him here, we hope everyone will say: “Let the will of the Lord be done.”

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by avoiding all efforts to persuade people not to follow the word of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never letting our emotions and our desires be a stumbling block to people trying to follow the will of God for their lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by supporting and encouraging one another to follow the will of God, even if it means going into danger.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God called Paul to Jerusalem to be bound by the Jews and handed over to the Gentiles, all in keeping with God's plan to magnify Himself through the ministry of Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that when Paul wanted to go to Jerusalem in obedience to this Holy Spirit, people set their minds on their own desires and tried to block Paul from following the Holy Spirit's leading?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 756

Ready Today



What did Paul do after those days? The ministry team got ready and started on up to Jerusalem.

Paul spent time with the brethren in Caesarea. Agabus came down from Jerusalem and told everyone that the Jews would bind Paul and deliver him to the Gentiles. The audience then began crying and begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Paul let them know that he was fully aware of what was awaiting him at Jerusalem, but he was also fully prepared to lay down his life for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was another great example of God using a man to spread the gospel to many different lands and also to spread the gospel to kings, governors, soldiers, captains and other people in authority. Paul understood that he would suffer many things for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, but he also understood that Jesus could use him to speak to many people in high-ranking positions.

While some people begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem, those same people finally understood that the will of God was for Paul to go to Jerusalem.

While they obviously did not want to see their friend suffer, everyone came to understand that God wanted to use Paul at Jerusalem.

Started

1. **After**. What did Paul do after leaving Caesarea? Paul made his way to Jerusalem.

2. **Days**. After several days in Caesarea, the ministry team headed towards Jerusalem.

3. **Ready**. The team took action to prepare to go by getting ready for the journey.

4. **Started**. Having prepared well, they started on their way out of Caesarea and toward Jerusalem.

5. **Our**. Paul was not going alone because Luke wrote that they went on our way.

6. **Way**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provided a ministry team to accompany Paul all the way to Jerusalem.

7. **Jerusalem**. We rejoice today because Paul never backed down from personal perils such as going to Jerusalem when he knew that bonds and afflictions awaited him there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for ministry teams to support our work.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by building ministry teams that travel with us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the saints that pray for us and encourages on a day-by-day basis.**

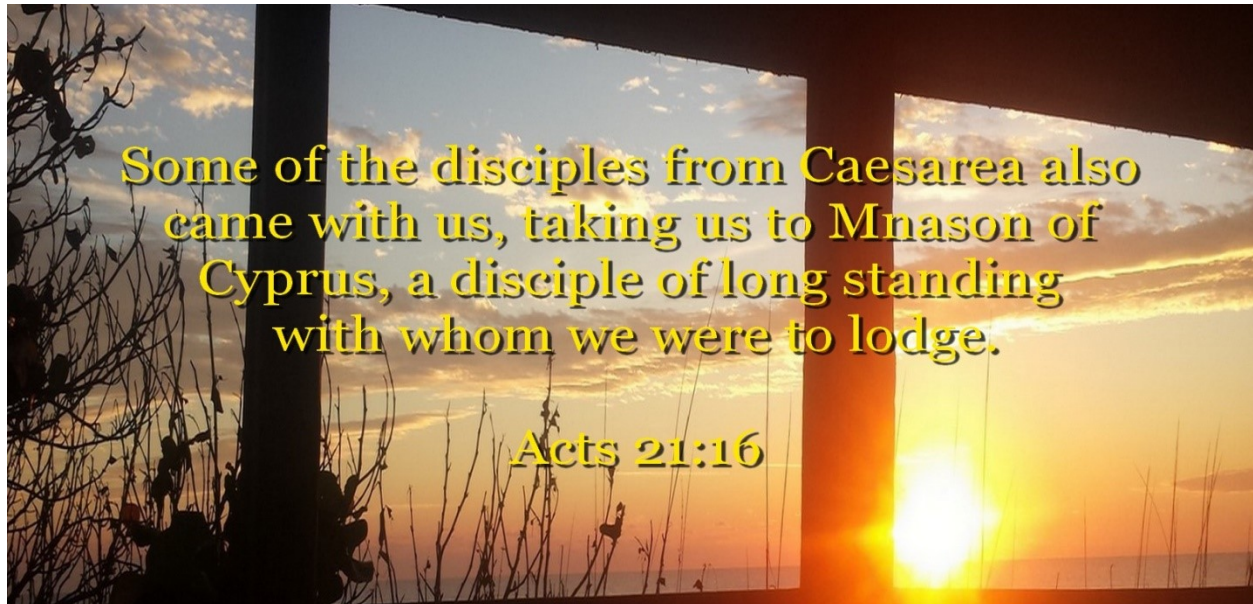
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by building ministry teams today that will encourage us in the work tomorrow. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the saints who provide support to the ministry day-by-day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 757

Mnason Today



Who accompanied Paul from Caesarea? Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied Paul and the ministry team to Jerusalem.

The disciples from Caesarea led Paul to Mnason of Cyprus, who said that he would provide lodging for the team. He was also a disciple of long-standing. The ministry of hospitality often brings great blessings to the people who receive it and to those who open their homes and give it.

Paul and the ministry team needed a place to stay in Jerusalem. Everyone knew that trouble awaited Paul there, even down to the details that the Jews would bind Paul and turn him over to the Gentiles. Of course, whether others would be involved remained unclear. Sometimes persecution spreads to all the disciples.

God recorded the names of many people in the Bible and many of those names we only hear about but once. Even so, Mnason of Cyprus will be remembered as a man who opened his home for the missionary team to stay there during their visit to Jerusalem.

Disciple

1. **Disciples**. Who came with them from Caesarea? Some disciples from Caesarea accompanied the ministry team to Jerusalem.
2. **Came**. Those disciples from Caesarea came along for a particular purpose.
3. **Us**. They joined the group which Luke described as “us”.
4. **Taking**. They were taking the missionaries to Jerusalem so that they could reach their intended destination.
5. **Mnason**. Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long-standing, had agreed to provide lodging for the missionary team and the Caesarean disciples guided him to that destination.
6. **Disciple**. Living holy in the family of God means that we thank God for disciples of long-standing who open their homes to missionaries.
7. **Lodge**. We rejoice today because God moves some people to open their homes so that missionaries may lodge there during their travels.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the hospitality of Mnason of Cyprus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by providing lodging and food for missionaries as they travel.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that His family looks after travelers in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by offering support to missionaries traveling through our area. Will you live holy in the family of God today by providing lodging to missionaries as the need arises?

HALLELUJAH!

3

Jerusalem

Arrival Today

After Paul and the ministry team arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received them gladly. Paul met with the elders and James and related to them the great things God had done for the Gentiles. Paul also agreed to take some men under a vow to pay for their expenses. Paul sought to show a good example to all the Jews that he was not out to break the Law of Moses. After Paul had purified himself, he entered the Temple, giving notice of purification, and making the appropriate sacrifice for each of the men under the vow and himself. Trouble arose almost immediately.

The Jews from Asia made false charges against Paul and created a riot in the city. They falsely claimed that Paul had defiled the Temple and broken the Law of Moses. All of Jerusalem fell into an uproar. Things became so bad that the Roman commander had to leave the barracks to rescue Paul from the mob. As Paul was being taken back to the barracks, he received permission from the Roman commander to address the mob.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 758

Arrived Today



What happened when Paul arrived in Jerusalem? The brethren in Jerusalem received the ministry team gladly.

Warm welcomes from the brethren always make life better. Word of Paul's impending bonds and afflictions was well known. God did not make it a secret and news traveled fast.

Paul had been chased by the Jews for a long time. Many of them had tried to kill him from Damascus on. They could not defeat him with their own skills or wisdom in the synagogues where he boldly proclaimed that Jesus really was the Christ and proved it from the Scriptures. Paul never backed down from declaring the whole counsel of God to everyone who would listen, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Paul had gone from place to place traveling from Greece all the way down to Jerusalem. All along the way he had been greeting brethren and they had been greeting him. In some ways, Paul had a journey of tears. Many people wept when they heard what Paul would face in Jerusalem. Even so

Paul indefatigably journeyed on towards Jerusalem, with resoluteness and determination to do the will of God and lay down his life, if necessary.

Received

1. **After**. What happened in Jerusalem? After the ministry team arrived, the brethren greeted them.

2. **We**. Luke used the “we” term again, indicating that he and the ministry team accompanied Paul all the way to Jerusalem.

3. **Arrived**. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they had completed a long trip starting in Greece.

4. **Jerusalem**. As Jesus entered Jerusalem before His death, He wept over the city because of its impending destruction and unbelief.

5. **Brethren**. When Paul entered the city of Jerusalem, it was still full of unbelief, but some disciples looked forward to seeing the missionary team.

6. **Us**. Living holy in the family of God means we remember that the brethren in Jerusalem received the missionary team with gladness.

7. **Gladly**. We rejoice today because the disciples in Jerusalem gladly received the missionary team, indicating that they understood Paul’s mission and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ by coming after the warnings.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by receiving the missionaries that come our way with gladness.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by refreshing the missionaries as we spend time with them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying the work of God among the missionaries as they face perils with courage given by the Lord Jesus Christ.**

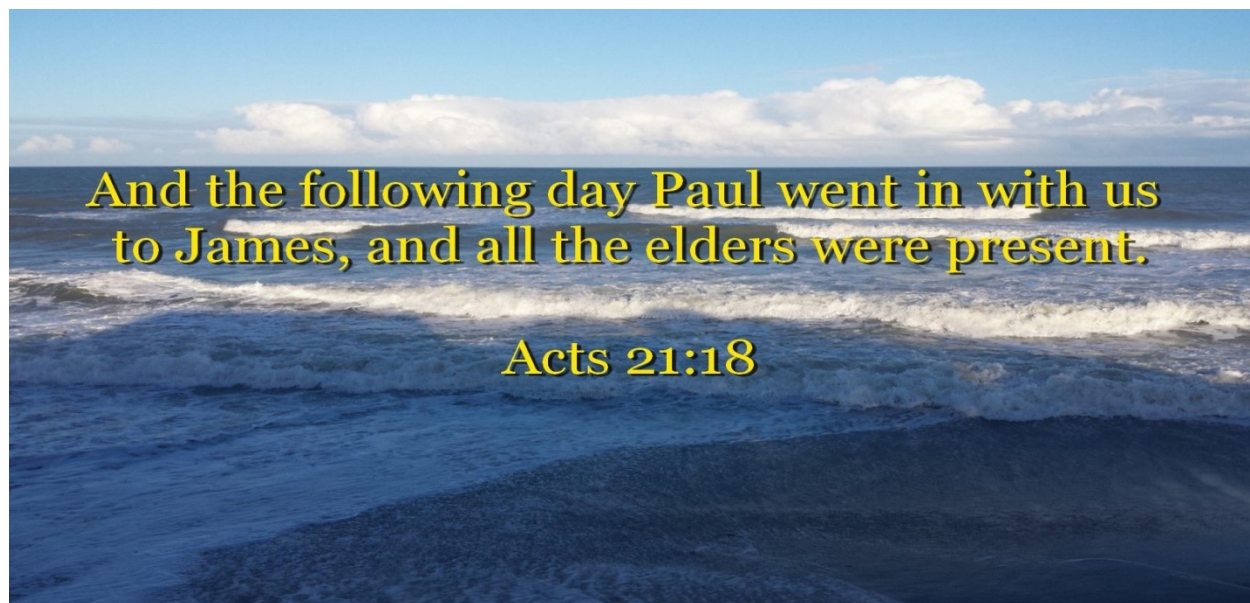
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by receiving the missionaries with gladness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing when God sends missionaries your way?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 759

James Today



Who did Paul meet on the day after he arrived in Jerusalem? Paul met James and all the elders.

In the New Testament, elders played a vital role in the early church. They should not be confused with the Church Office of Overseer or the Church Office of Deacon or The Spiritual Gift of the Shepherds. The elders exercised the power of God by providing spiritual guidance to the congregation.

We know that Herod had killed James, the brother of John. Therefore, the apostle James in view here was most likely the brother of the Lord Jesus who had converted to faith in Christ by the time the disciples were meeting after the ascension. They were present in the upper room praying with the other disciples in Jerusalem just before Pentecost. They were the same brothers of the Lord who told Jesus to go up to the feast, knowing that the Jews sought to kill Him. Jesus said His time had not come, but their time was always opportune.

After his conversion, Paul had been to Jerusalem on at least three occasions. He had met the reputed pillars of the church and they had supported him and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ he preached.

Elders

1. **Following**. What happened the day after the missionary team arrived in Jerusalem? They went to see James and the elders.

2. **Paul**. Paul had met with the elders and James and the apostles previously when he came from Antioch with a question about what to do with the Gentiles and their obligations to the Law, if any.

3. **Us**. Luke used the word “us” again indicating the missionary team went with Paul to meet with the elders and James.

4. **James**. James exercised authority in the Jerusalem church as one of the leading speakers.

5. **All**. We also know that a plurality of elders provided leadership to the church in Jerusalem and elsewhere.

6. **Elders**. Living holy in the family of God means that the elders received the missionary team, not just Paul.

7. **Present**. We rejoice today because all the elders were present when Paul arrived with the missionary team to speak with them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul met with all the elders and James at Jerusalem when he returned there.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that all the elders were gathered to meet Paul and the missionary team, not just James or the apostles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking time to visit with the church leadership to encourage them about the work God is doing elsewhere.**

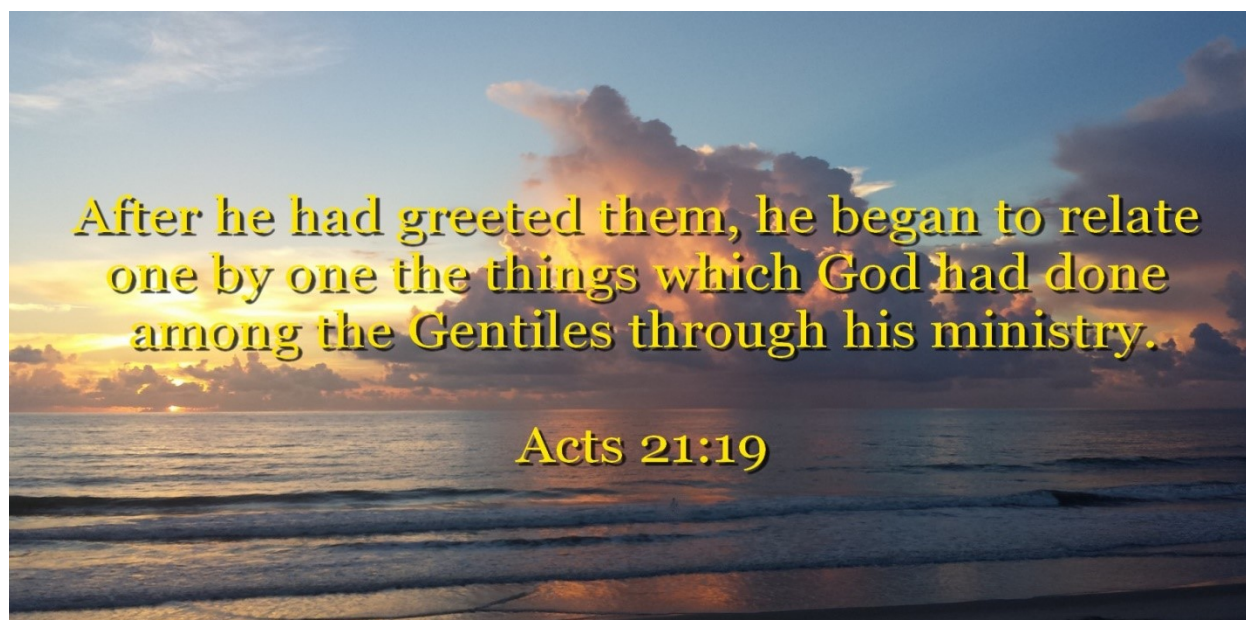
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by letting the elders know about the ministries we are pursuing. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to meet with the church leadership and bringing them up to date on the great things God has been doing in your life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 760

Relate Today



After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

Acts 21:19

What did Paul say to the elders and James? Paul related many things which God had done among the Gentiles.

On a previous occasion Paul had brought the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them which he had received by direct revelation from God. He presented it to the reputed pillars of the church in Jerusalem and they embraced him and the Gospel he preached.

This time Paul told the elders and James about the great things God had done through his ministry for the Gentiles. Paul gave a step-by-step account of his travels and the reception of the Gentiles. All of Asia had come to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and churches had been planted in Macedonia and Achaia, and the Gospel preached at Athens.

Some of the missionaries routinely traveling with Paul came from both Asia and Europe. Not only did Paul plant churches by the power of God, but he also made disciples and the ministry teams. Paul sent those ministry teams before him on multiple occasions and sometimes they followed him. Paul felt quite comfortable sending them off in one direction while he went

in another. At times they functioned well without his immediate direction. They also served as faithful church messengers.

Ministry

1. **Greeted**. What happened after Paul greeted the elders? Paul updated them on the activities of the ministry team.

2. **Them**. Paul greeted all the elders and James who had gathered together to meet the ministry team.

3. **Relate**. Paul began to relate the activity of God in the many places God had sent him to spread the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ among the Gentiles.

4. **One**. Paul gave a detailed, one by one account of God's great works among the Gentiles.

5. **Things**. Paul told them the things that God had done among the Gentiles in Asia and Europe.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that we love to magnify the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

7. **Gentiles**. We rejoice today because God loves the Gentiles and brought them into the church of the Lord Jesus Christ as fellow heirs of Christ with the Jews.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by sharing the great works of God that He has done through us with other believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to meet with people in leadership so that they can learn more about the great things God is doing all over the place.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by telling others about the gracious and loving works of the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father and the Holy Spirit.**

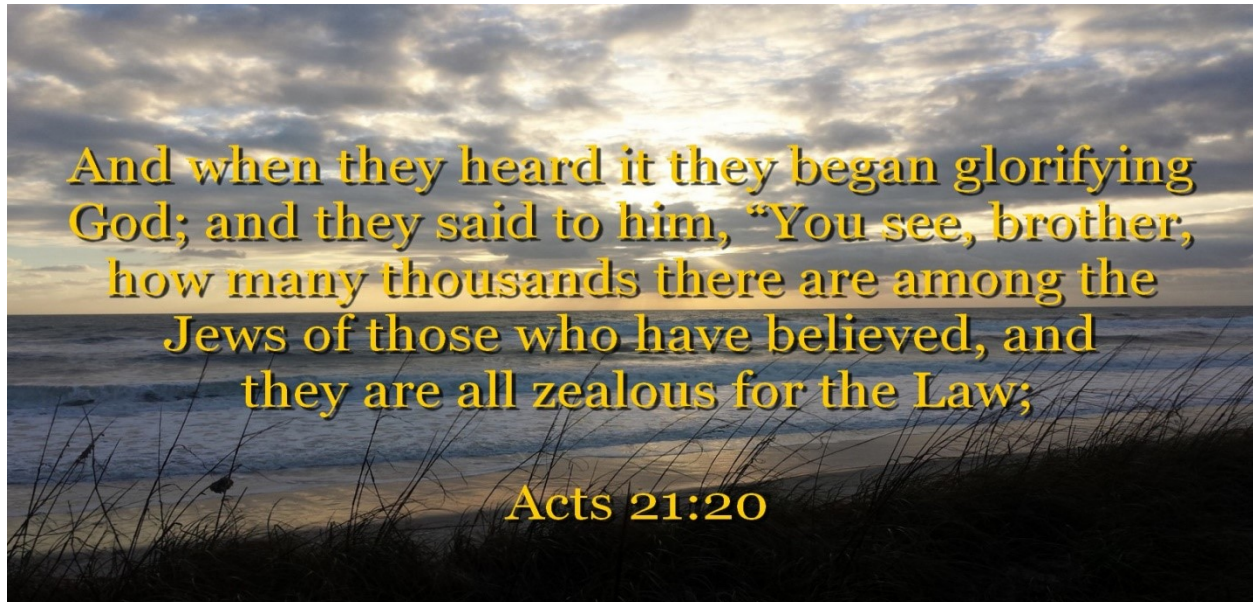
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the many things He does in our lives so that we proclaim the excellencies of Him Who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting other people know God's activity in your life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 761

Glorifying God Today



How did the Jews reactive Paul’s account of his missionary work? They begin glorifying God.

After Paul recounted the conversion of many Jews and Gentiles, the audience told him that many thousands among the Jews had believed and they were all zealous for the Law. Paul clearly understood that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ saves people from their sins, but the Law could never accomplish that work. Therefore, Paul did not encourage anyone to keep the Law.

Paul had many conflicts with the Jews about the Law of Moses. Paul had received a direct revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ that only faith was required for salvation. The works of the Law never saved anybody and could not save anybody. If keeping the law could save anybody, then Jesus died needlessly.

Apparently, a contingent of the Jews in Jerusalem was still advocating the obligation to keep the Law of Moses. Those people did not understand salvation by faith to the extent they wanted to still keep the Law of Moses.

No one, Jew or Gentile, had any obligation to keep the Law of Moses after Christ came. The Law served as a tutor to the Jews showing them the necessity of a Savior.

Zealous

1. **When**. What did the audience tell Paul about the Jews? They told Paul that thousands of the Jews had believed they were zealous for the Law.

2. **They**. When those Jews came to faith in Christ, apparently they did not understand that the Law was of no value for salvation.

3. **Heard**. When they heard about the Gentiles coming to Christ and the Jews coming to Christ, they begin glorifying God.

4. **Glorifying**. The audience began glorifying God because they were delighted to hear of the conversion of many people in many places taking place through the preaching of Paul.

5. **Jews**. The audience also related that many thousands of the Jews had believed.

6. **Believed**. Living holy in the family of God means that some people believe in Jesus, but they did not understand the proper place of the Law of Moses.

7. **Zealous**. We rejoice today because although many of the Jews who believed were zealous for the Law of Moses, God had sent Paul and Peter to provide greater insight to the Jews that when Messiah had come, the Law was no longer of any effect for the believer in Jesus because the purpose of the Law had been fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that some Jews who believed remain zealous for the Law.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never compromising the integrity of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in any way.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trying to avoid needless conflict.**

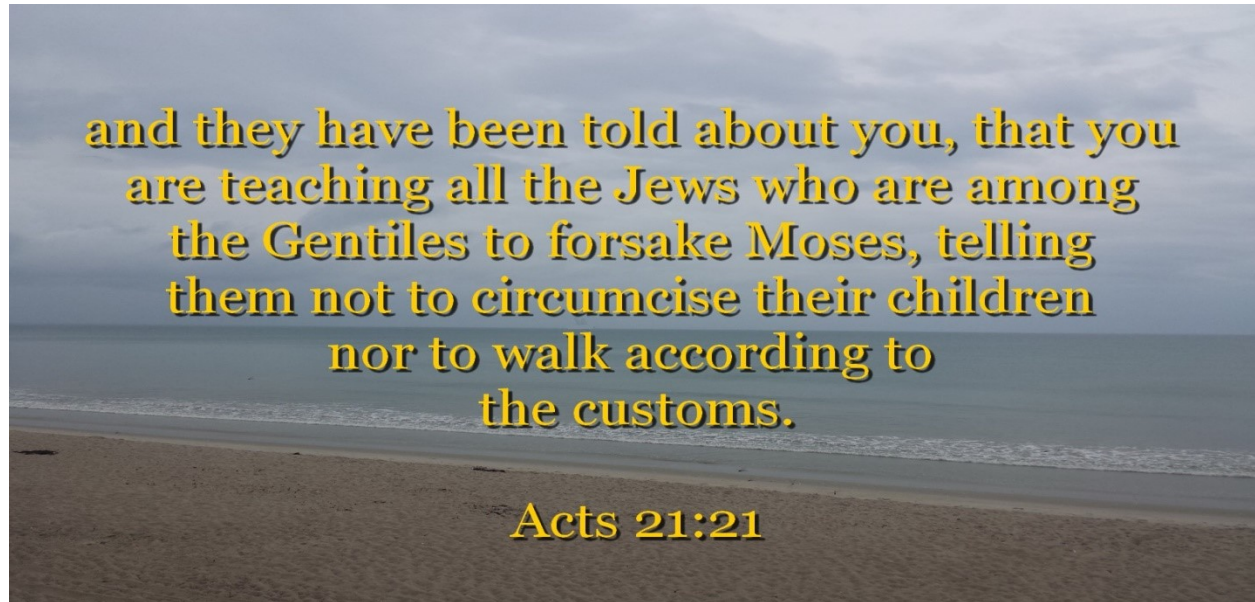
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking wise steps to avoid conflict without sacrificing our fidelity to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His revelation to Paul about the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 762

Teaching Today



What were the Jews saying about Paul? Many of the Jews were saying that Paul was teaching all the Jews who were among the Gentiles to forsake Moses.

The Jews charged Paul with ignoring the Law of Moses. They further charged that he told people not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs of the Jews.

With perfect clarity Paul understood that the Law of Moses could not save anyone. The Jews were completely mistaken if they thought that keeping the Law had any affect upon salvation. Faith alone was required for salvation and no form of works.

Because circumcision and the customs of the Jews were based on the Law, those things were no longer necessary. The Law only served as a reminder of how sinful people really were and how much they needed a Savior. Therefore, when the Savior Jesus Christ arrived, the Law and its requirements were all fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus became the end of the Law for righteousness for all who believe.

Forsake

1. **They**. What did Paul's friends tell him about the Jews? They said the Jews had been told that Paul was teaching people to ignore the Law of Moses.
2. **Told**. They had been told about Paul from many different people.
3. **Teaching**. They said Paul was teaching things contrary to the Law of Moses.
4. **Jews**. They said that the Jews among the Gentiles were taught by Paul to ignore the Law of Moses and the customs of the Jews.
5. **Forsake**. They specifically alleged that Paul taught the Jews in many places to forsake the Law of Moses.
6. **Moses**. Living holy in the family of God means that they charged Paul with teaching Jews all over the place to ignore the Law of Moses when they believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.
7. **Circumcise**. We rejoice today because Paul did not teach people to circumcise their male children because he understood the Law of Moses had been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the pressure the Jews put upon Paul to hold fast the Law of Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul's Jewish friends in Jerusalem sought ways to appease the angry Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God who holds all things in His hands and controls the outcome of all things.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His mercies and delivering us from the demands of the Law of Moses because Jesus bought our salvation on the cross which we accept by faith alone. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never letting anyone impose the Law of Moses upon you today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 763

Certainly Today



What did the audience ask of Paul? They wanted to know what could be done.

They were very concerned that Paul would be subject to attack by the Jews. They wanted to circumvent those attacks one way or another. They wanted to keep Paul out of harm's way, if possible.

Paul had already received the testimony of the Holy Spirit in many places and from many people that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem. Paul knew exactly what was waiting for him and it was inevitable according to the prophecy of the Holy Spirit. But Paul was ready not only to go to Jerusalem, but to lay down his life for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul did not want to inflame the Jews needlessly, but at the same time, he was unwilling to compromise the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ based upon faith alone. Paul was not going to preach one thing to the Gentiles abroad and then act like a hypocrite in the city of Jerusalem to appease the Jews. Paul saw that anyone preaching a gospel based upon keeping the law

was preaching no Gospel at all, because God only gave one Gospel based upon faith, not works of the Law.

Hear

1. **What**. Why did Paul's friends ask him what was to be done? They knew the Jews were very opposed to Paul and wanted to kill him.

2. **Then**. Paul's friends in Jerusalem understood that Paul had made real enemies of many Jews and word had spread that he was heading to Jerusalem.

3. **Done**. They knew they had to do something, but they did not know what needed to be done.

4. **They**. Paul's friends were certain that the angry Jews would hear about Paul arriving in Jerusalem.

5. **Hear**. They also knew that they will hear and respond immediately to take Paul into custody.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul's friends warned him that the Jews will know he had come to Jerusalem.

7. **Come**. We rejoice today because Paul's friends meant to keep him safe, if possible, because he had come to Jerusalem knowing that bonds and afflictions awaited from the Jews.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for friends who try to get us out of rough places.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to help us to do His will even when things look very difficult.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul going to Jerusalem knowing that trouble awaited him there from the Jews.**

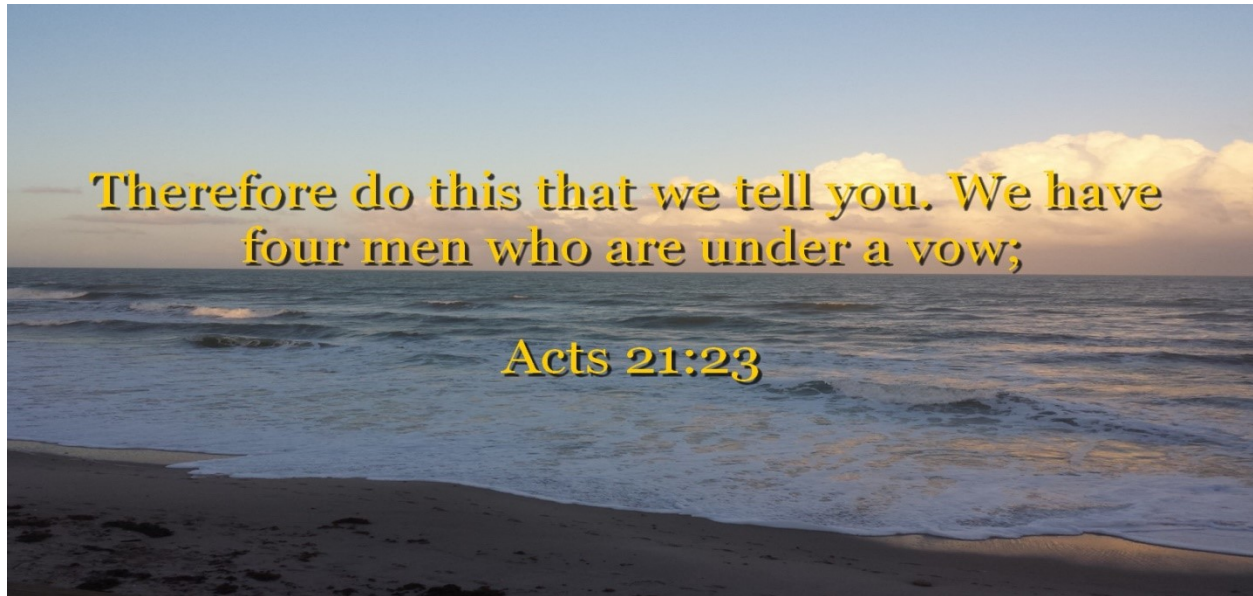
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following God's plans and never sacrificing God's word to avoid trouble. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His wisdom and leading us through dangerous times?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 764

Do This Today



What plan did the Jews come up with for Paul? They had a plan to use four men under a vow.

Under the Old Testament Law people could make a vow to God for a certain period of time. At the end of that period of time they would go to the Temple and offer a sacrifice and complete their vow to God.

In this case the Jews helping Paul had four men already under a vow. Those Jews thought that they could show everyone that Paul still kept the Law by helping those men who are under a vow. Paul never went out of his way to inflame the Jews, but he always maintained his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and his fidelity to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul never pretended to be something he was not, but he became a Jew to those who were Jews, within the bounds of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul also understood that the Jews in Jerusalem were under the authority of Rome. According to the prophecy of Agabus, the Jews were to arrest Paul and bind him and then turn him over to the Romans. Paul knew exactly what was going to happen because the Holy Spirit had already told

him and many other people. Try as people might to avoid conflict with the Jews, the word of the Holy Spirit concerning Paul would not be broken.

Vow

1. **Therefore**. What did Paul's friends recommend that he do? They recommended he take care of four men under a vow.

2. **Do**. Paul's friends told him that he should do what they told him to do.

3. **Tell**. They were going to tell Paul about how to appease the Jews' anger towards Paul.

4. **Four**. Paul's friends knew about four Jews under a vow.

5. **Men**. Those men had made a pledge to the Lord for a period of time and when that time period was fulfilled, they would be released from the vow.

6. **Under**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul's friends tried to appease the Jews by providing proof through Paul that he still lived an orderly life under the Law of Moses.

7. **Vow**. We rejoice today because Paul was willing to help the men under the vow, but he was absolutely against compromising the truth of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for anyone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul was willing to listen to instructions about appeasing the Jews.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for friends who try to find ways to get through tight situations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God alone controls the future according to His will.**

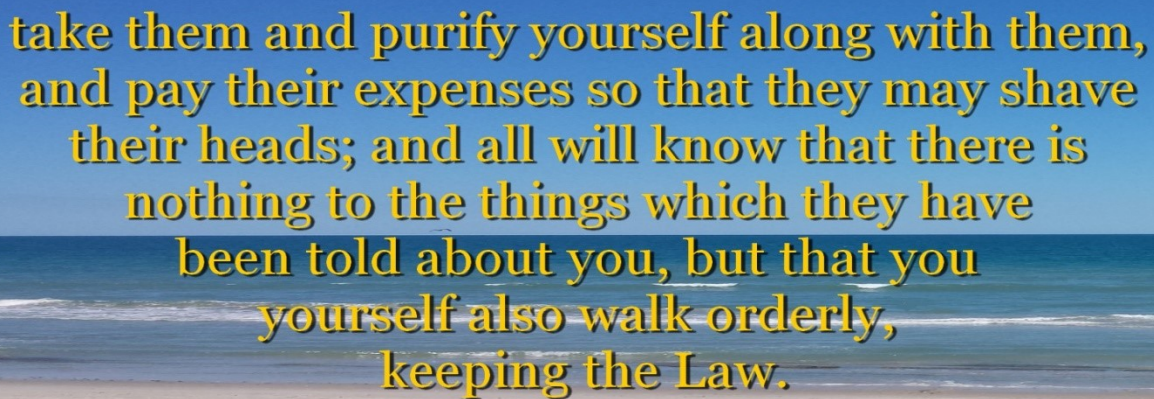
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God helps us to navigate through deep water. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that we follow the leading of Jesus above the leading of our well-intentioned friends acting contrary to the will of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 765

Purify Today



take them and purify yourself along with them,
and pay their expenses so that they may shave
their heads; and all will know that there is
nothing to the things which they have
been told about you, but that you
yourself also walk orderly,
keeping the Law.

Acts 21:24

How did the Jews friendly to Paul try to allay the suspicions of the rest of the Jews? They suggested that if Paul helped the people under the vow, that everyone would know that Paul actually kept the Law.

Paul's friends had a very specific plan. He would take the four men under the vow already and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads. One form of vow involved shaving the head and letting it grow for a period of time. Paul's friends hoped to prove to all the Jews that he actually kept the Law and all the charges against him were false. Of course, that plan would not persuade the most ardent Jews that Paul was actually keeping the Law.

Paul understood that the integrity of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was a stake in Jerusalem. Paul would not compromise the truth of the Gospel based upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had definite limits about what he would do to keep the Law to appease the Jews.

In our lives today we run into the same issues about how far we can go in trying to avoid religious conflicts without compromising in any way the

integrity of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as the Jerusalem Council had provided guidance for the Gentiles, so also Paul would try to avoid needless conflict with the Jews.

Walk Orderly

1. **Take**. What was the exact plan from Paul's friends? They wanted Paul to show that he lived an orderly life under the Law of Moses.
2. **Them**. Under the plan, Paul would take the four men under the vow.
3. **Purify**. Paul would follow the procedure to purify himself.
4. **Yourself**. Paul would not only purify himself, but he would also purify the four men.
5. **Them**. By keeping the requirements of the Law of Moses for ceremonial purity, the plan was to persuade the Jews that Paul did not disrespect the Law of Moses.
6. **Pay**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul would also have to pay for the four men to keep their vows.
7. **Law**. We rejoice today because we no longer have to follow the Law of Moses because Jesus came and we no longer need the Law of Moses to point us to Christ as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trying to find ways to avoid giving religious offense when possible.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the difference between salvation by faith and not offending anyone without sufficient cause.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul at Jerusalem seeking to appease the anger of the Jews.**

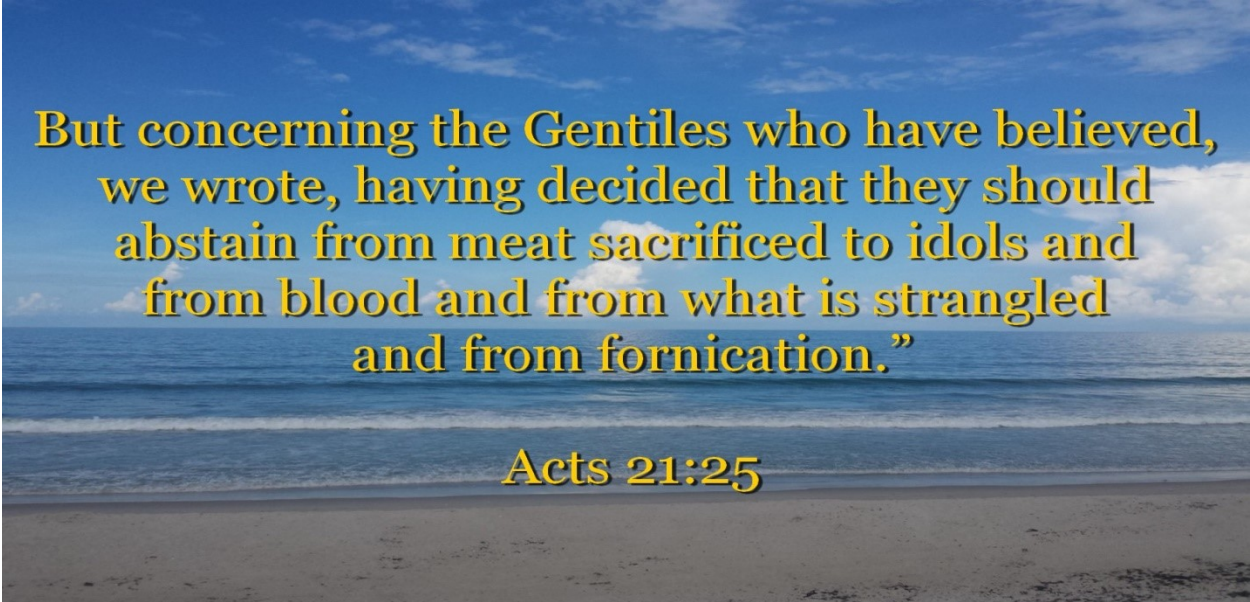
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to our friends and following their plans, provided they do not contradict the plans of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never compromising the plans and purposes of God by trying to avoid conflict when it becomes inevitable?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 766

Gentiles Today



But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication.”

Acts 21:25

What did James and the elders in Jerusalem tell Paul about the Law of Moses? They told Paul that the Gentiles who believe should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication.

Some Jews from Judea went up to Antioch and created a furor. They said to the Christians there at Antioch that they had to keep the Law to go to heaven. Paul and others fiercely opposed them, because the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ rests upon faith alone and not performing the works of the Law of Moses.

In order to resolve the matter in Antioch, the church there sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to seek advice from the apostles, elders and others. Having considered the matter, the Jerusalem church issued a letter concluding that the Gentiles should avoid giving the Jews needless offense. Therefore, they directed that the Gentile believers abstain from meat sacrificed idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If the Gentiles would do those things, they would do well.

Abstain

1. **But**. What did James and the elders say about the Gentile believers? They wrote a letter providing specific advice about the conduct of the Gentile believers.

2. **Gentiles**. As the word of God spread among the Gentiles, they joined the church and also interacted with many Jews.

3. **We**. James indicated that the elders, the apostles and the congregation had all reached unanimous agreement about what advice to give to the Gentiles to avoid unnecessary conflicts with the Jews.

4. **Meat**. They advised the Gentiles to avoid eating meat sacrificed to idols.

5. **Blood**. They advised the Gentiles to avoid eating blood.

6. **Strangled**. Living holy in the family of God means that Gentiles should also avoid eating food that is been strangled to avoid unnecessary conflict with the Jews.

7. **Fornication**. We rejoice today because the believing Gentiles should also avoid immorality, and not just fornication.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by avoiding unnecessary conflicts with Jews and other religious people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by accepting wise counsel to minimize conflicts.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the Law of Moses binds no believers today.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by avoiding unnecessary conflicts of all types. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking advice seasoned with wisdom to avoid trouble?

HALLELUJAH!

4

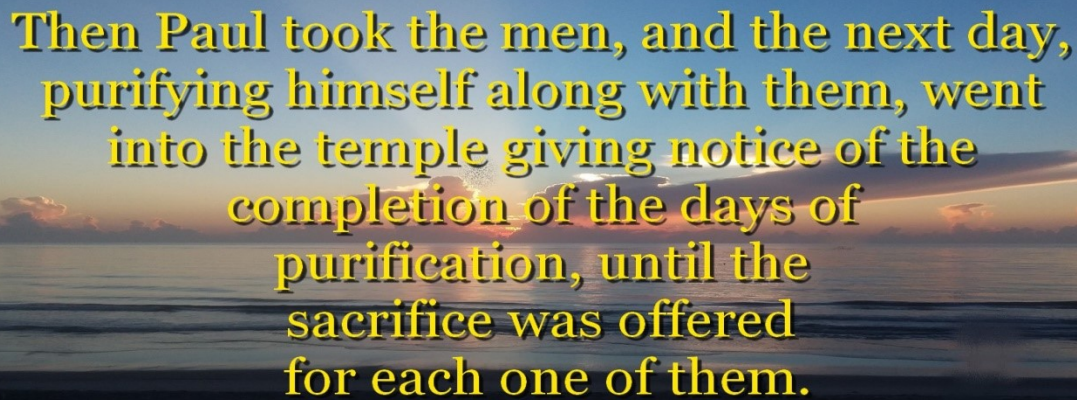
Temple Today

Paul entered the temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices for the men completing their vows and for himself. Jews from Asia saw him in the Temple and falsely charged him with defiling the Temple, because they had seen him with a Gentile in the city. Of course, Paul did not take a Gentile into the Temple and did nothing to defile the Temple. The Asian Jews saw an opportunity to whip up a crowd and threw the city into confusion, focusing all their anger upon Paul. Before long the entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar over the false allegations of the Jews from Asia continuing their persecution of Paul. The tumult became so great that the Roman commander learned of it and had to rescue Paul from the mob inflicting violence upon him.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 767

Purification Today



Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the temple giving notice of the completion of the days of purification, until the sacrifice was offered for each one of them.

Acts 21:26

What did Paul do to appease the Jews? Paul took the men under the vow and went with them into the Temple.

Paul began by purifying himself along with them. They wanted to be holy and sanctified when they walked into the Temple. Paul wanted to make a public display of him helping the men under the vow. Paul continued to meet the ceremonial requirements of the Law of Moses. Therefore, he gave notice of the days of completion for their purification. A sacrifice was offered for each one of the men under the vow, as prescribed by the Law of Moses.

Paul made a good-faith effort to avoid antagonizing the Jews at Jerusalem and elsewhere. In this case, the brethren in Jerusalem came up with a way for Paul to show that he lived an orderly life under the Law of Moses. Paul, however, was completely unwilling to be a hypocrite when it came to the Law of Moses. He was unwilling to accept any impingement upon the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, such as teaching that one must keep the Law of Moses to go to heaven.

Sacrifice

1. **Paul**. What did Paul do with the men under the vow? Paul took them into the Temple.

2. **Men**. Those men had made a vow and were serving out a period of time to fulfill the vow.

3. **Purifying**. Before entering the Temple, Paul was purifying himself along with the men.

4. **Temple**. Paul was going into the Temple to give notice regarding the vow and its completion.

5. **Purification**. Ceremonial purification was required to enter the Temple in good conscience.

6. **Sacrifice**. Living holy in the family of God means that when fulfilling a vow, often a sacrifice was offered upon completion of the vow.

7. **Offered**. We rejoice today because a sacrifice was offered for each man under the vow, but today we know that Jesus made the one and only sacrifice effectively opening the doors of heaven to everyone who believes in Him for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul purified himself before going into the Temple.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding Paul's attempt to defuse the situation with the Jews by helping the men under the vow.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sanctifying God in our hearts so that we treat Him with the utmost respect and honor.**

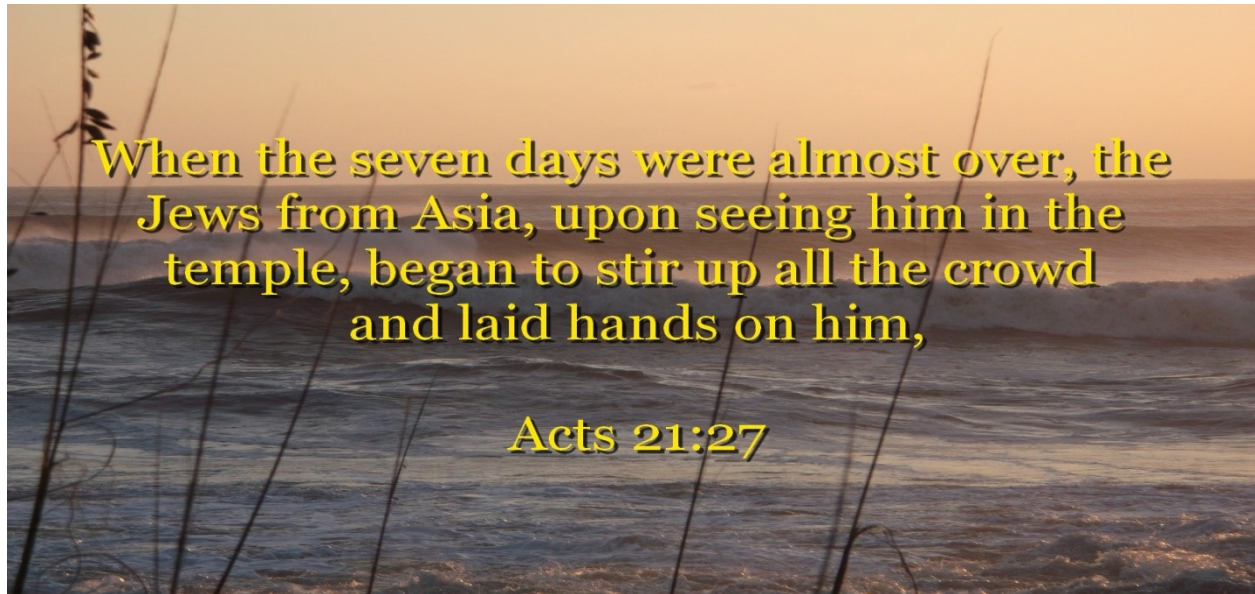
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to help men fulfill their obligations to God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by supporting men who have made special promises to God and intend to keep them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 768

Jews Today



What happened after the seven days were almost over? The Jews from Asia saw Paul in the Temple.

The Jews from Asia were spoiling for a fight with Paul. News had already spread to Jerusalem and elsewhere that Paul was telling everybody to ignore the Law of Moses and for the Gentiles not to keep those customs. That news infuriated many of the Jews who heard it who had not been born again.

Those Jews from Asia began stirring up the crowd. This tactic had been used several times before against Paul. The Jews knew that stirring up a crowd would be a very difficult thing for Paul to deal with. The crowd could see Paul and harm Paul without any one person being responsible, particularly the instigators.

Sure enough, the crowd laid hands on Paul. One half of the prophecy of Agabus just came true. The Jews would seize Paul. Later they would deliver him into the hands of the Romans. Paul had known through the ministry of the Holy Spirit that bonds and afflictions awaited him in

Jerusalem. Even so, Paul went to Jerusalem and made a good-faith effort to avoid antagonizing the Jews. Those efforts ultimately proved unsuccessful.

Stir

1. **When**. What happened when the seven days were almost over? The Jews from Asia saw Paul in the Temple.

2. **Seven**. Four men had been keeping a vow for seven days and Paul was helping them.

3. **Asia**. Some Jews came from Asia to visit the Temple in Jerusalem.

4. **Seeing**. Seeing Paul in the Temple, the Jews from Asia saw a big opportunity to cause big trouble for Paul.

5. **Stir**. Those Jews began to stir up trouble at the Temple.

6. **Crowd**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember those Jews stirred up the crowd against Paul.

7. **Hands**. We rejoice today because the prophecy of Agabus came true, but God's plans for Paul were moving forward as prophesied.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by always counting upon the word of God to come true.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that the enemies of Christ will make trouble for the disciples of Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the tactics that unbelievers use against the saints.**

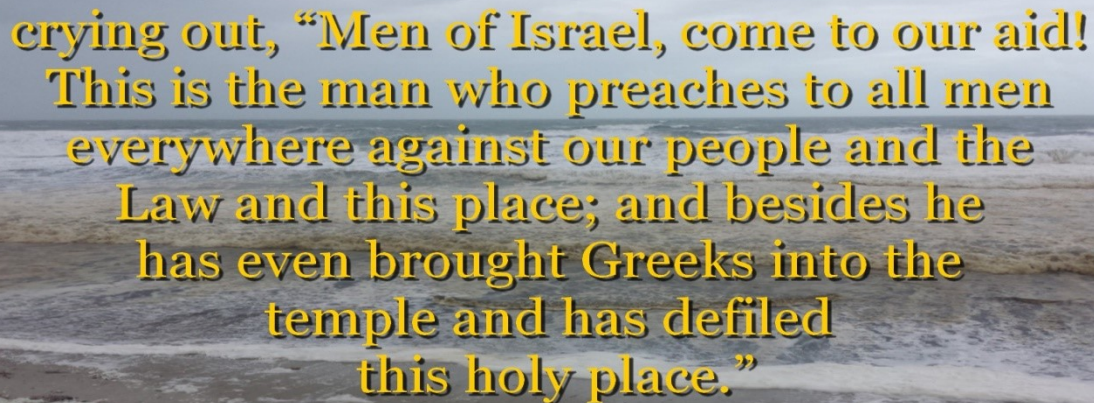
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by anticipating that unbelievers will use crowds to attack believers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that evil men stir up crowds to harm believers?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 769

Greeks Today



crying out, “Men of Israel, come to our aid!
This is the man who preaches to all men
everywhere against our people and the
Law and this place; and besides he
has even brought Greeks into the
temple and has defiled
this holy place.”

Acts 21:28

What did the Jews say to stir up the people? They said that Paul told everybody to ignore the Law and the Temple.

When the Jews from Asia saw Paul, they decided to stir up everybody against Paul. They asked for the men of Israel to come to their aid. They alleged that Paul was preaching to all men everywhere against the Jewish people and the Law and the Temple. In addition, according to the Jews from Asia, Paul even brought Greeks into the Temple and defiled this holy place.

The Jews from Asia knew how to cause problems. They would use the same tactics as before to stir up crowds to try to do harm to missionaries including Paul. Therefore, in Jerusalem they went ahead and stirred up the crowd again, baiting the crowd with false accusations against Paul. Often the most convincing false accusations have some truth behind them.

Paul did not preach against the Jews or the Temple, but he did proclaim faith alone in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Obedience to the Law played no role in salvation whatsoever, except to show

how sinful a man was and how much he needed a Savior. By the works of the Law no flesh would be justified.

Defiled

1. **Crying**. What did the Jews from Asia say to stir up the crowd? The Jews from Asia began crying out about the preaching that Paul allegedly did.

2. **Men**. They began crying out to the men of Israel seeking their aid.

3. **Man**. They wanted to focus the attention wrongly upon the man, Paul.

4. **Preaches**. They alleged that Paul preached against the Jews and their traditions.

5. **People**. They specifically said that Paul preached against the Jews, the people of God.

6. **Law**. Living holy in the family of God means that the enemies of Paul claimed he preached against the Law of Moses.

7. **Holy**. We rejoice today because Paul loved the Temple in Jerusalem because it is the Temple of God on earth and a holy place.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that evil crowds say evil things about holy people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting them to stir up crowds by mischaracterizing our words to fit their goals.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to deliver us from the words of evil men.**

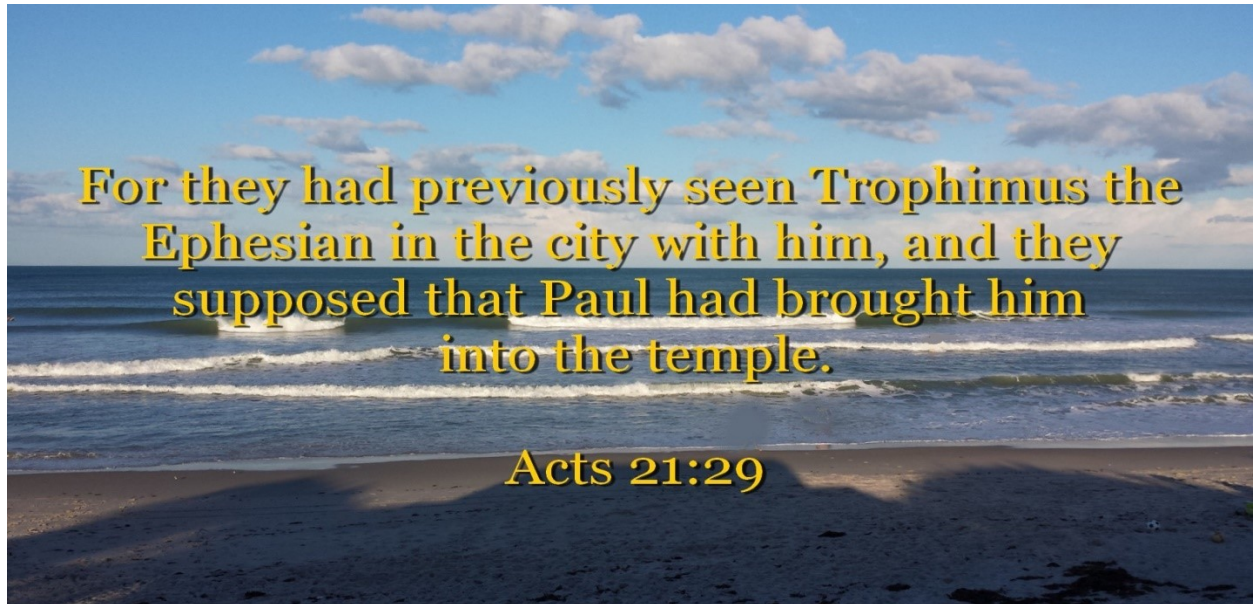
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that evil men will say very evil things about the family of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that we all must trust God to withstand the attacks of evil men?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 770

Trophimus Today



What other lies did the Jews tell about Paul? The Jews lied about Paul taking a Gentile into the Temple.

The Jews from Asia had seen Paul with Trophimus the Ephesian in the city of Jerusalem. They wrongly extrapolated from that, that he had taken that man into the Temple.

Evil people often exaggerate and extrapolate to form lies. Paul was going out of his way to avoid insulting the Jews. Paul was friends with Trophimus the Ephesian, but the Jews had no evidence that Paul ever took Trophimus into the Temple. Of course, when you are trying to stir up the crowd, facts do not make that much difference. The key is to stir up their emotions, not their minds.

Paul made friends from all over the Asian and European theaters. Paul traveled with those friends and discipled them. In turn those men went about making disciples and carrying messages for Paul. In fact, Paul frequently sent men traveling with him to go do specific jobs for him. For example, Paul

would be likely to send Trophimus back to the Ephesians if he needed to communicate with them because he was from Ephesus.

Supposed

1. **For**. Why did the Jews suppose that Paul was breaking the Law of Moses? They had seen Paul with Trophimus the Ephesian in Jerusalem.

2. **Trophimus**. Paul had been with Trophimus the Ephesian.

3. **City**. They were together in the city.

4. **Supposed**. Instead of actually having knowledge that Paul had violated the Temple, the Jews simply supposed that he had because they had seen Paul with Trophimus in Jerusalem.

5. **Paul**. The Jews jumped to the conclusion about Paul that was not warranted by any of the facts.

6. **Brought**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Jews lied about Paul bringing Trophimus the Ephesian into the Temple.

7. **Temple**. We rejoice today because we remember the warning of Jesus that many people lied about Him and so they will lie about us too.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by avoiding jumping to conclusions about something until we have investigated it thoroughly.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by carefully searching out the truth to avoid spreading lies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for telling the truth always and never lying to us about anything.**

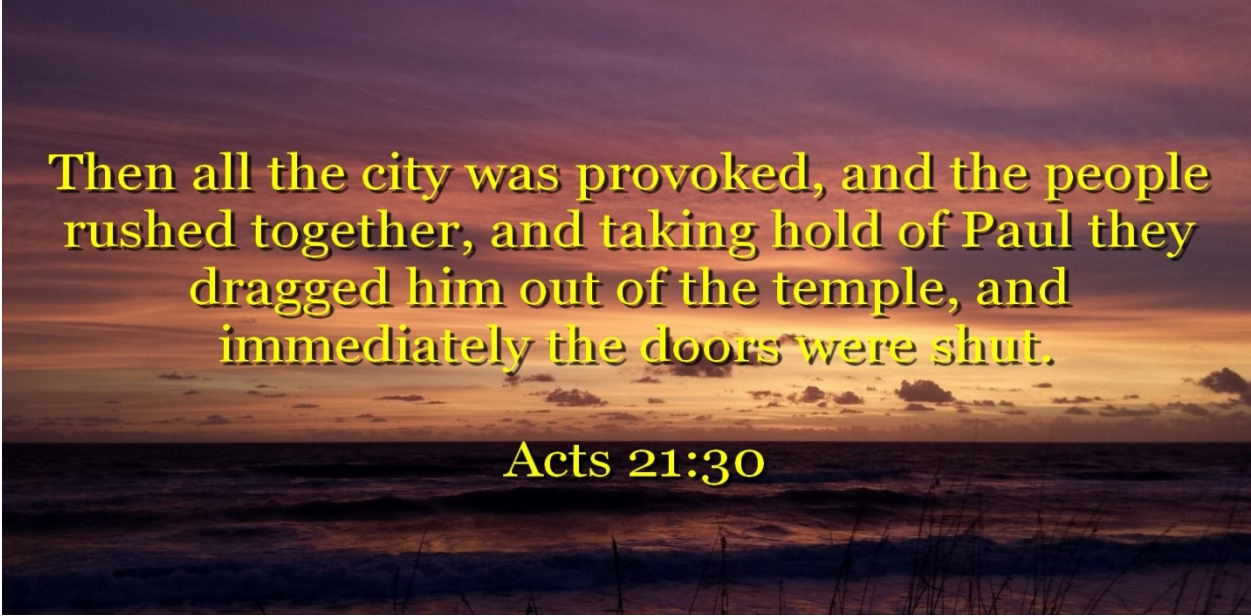
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the lies the Jews told about Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by not being discouraged when people lie about you because you remember they lied about Jesus and Paul long ago?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 771

Provoked Today

A sunset over the ocean with a purple and orange sky. The text is overlaid in yellow with a black outline.

Then all the city was provoked, and the people rushed together, and taking hold of Paul they dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut.

Acts 21:30

What happened to Paul? The crowd grabbed hold of Paul and dragged him out of the Temple.

The Jews from Asia saw Paul in the Temple. Because they hated Paul and all that he stood for, they incited the Jews present to seize him. They falsely claimed the Paul had taught Jews to disregard the Law of Moses and the traditions. Those Jews began yelling for help while Paul was in the Temple.

The whole city was provoked and the people rushed together. Taking hold of Paul, they dragged him out of the Temple. Immediately the temple doors were shut. The Jews were highly excited and a riot had broken out. The focus of all their attention was Paul and they believed that he had committed terrible sins against the Temple and Moses.

The Jews from Asia had succeeded in their initial plan. They intended to silence Paul and kill him, if possible. The angry mob was ready to do great personal injury to Paul. Just as Agabus the prophet had described, the Jews took hold of Paul with intent to do harm.

Dragged

1. **City**. What did the people in the city do? They rushed together.
2. **Provoked**. The Jews from Asia had provoked the people in the city.
3. **Rushed**. Having been provoked, the people in all of the city rushed together.
4. **Hold**. Then they took hold of Paul. The Jews from Asia had a plan to provoke the people in the city of Jerusalem so that they would attack Paul.
5. **Paul**. The mob grabbed hold of Paul and inflicted harm upon him.
6. **Dragged**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul was dragged out of the Temple by an angry mob.
7. **Shut**. We rejoice today because after the temple doors were shut, and the crowd had seized Paul, he was willing to suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul suffered at the hands of many Jews.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for faithful slaves of Jesus willing to risk their lives for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His plans to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles.**

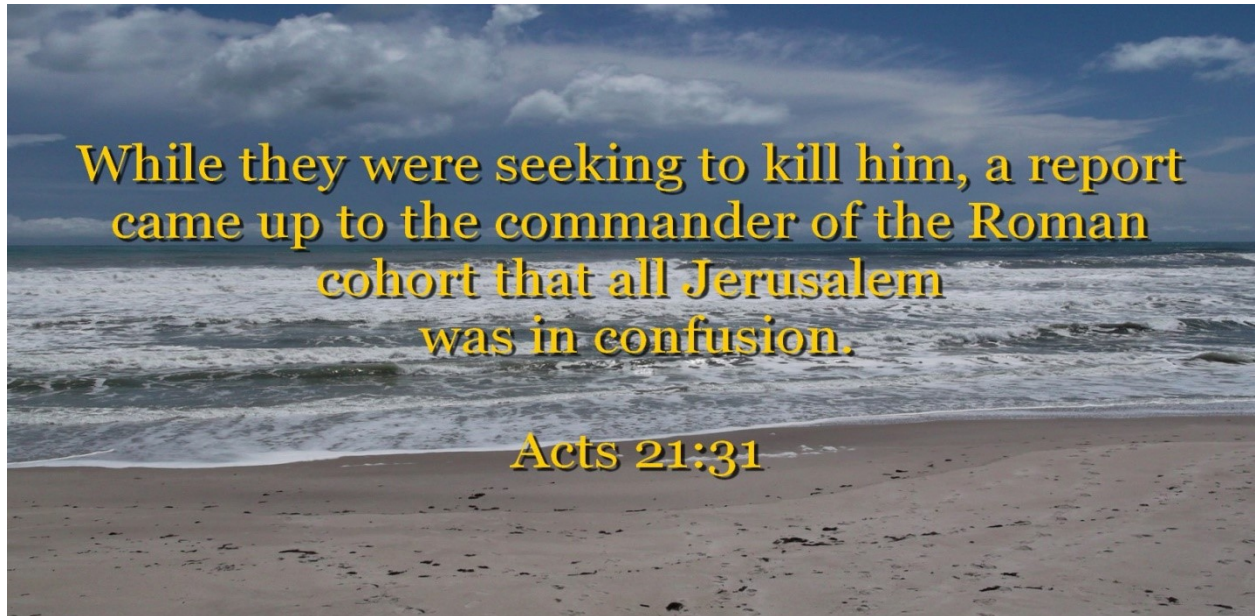
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for men like Paul going into Jerusalem knowing that bonds and afflictions awaited them there. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that people can become very violent when you share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 772

Report Today



What report reached the commander of the Roman cohort in Jerusalem? People reported to him that all of Jerusalem was in confusion.

The Romans gave some latitude to the Jews in Israel, but that latitude was not unfettered. A report of confusion all over the city drew their immediate attention. Riots were not permitted and the role of the Roman government was to provide peace for the population.

The Jews from Asia had stirred up the crowd in the Temple. The crowd became larger and spread so that the Jews grabbed Paul in the Temple and dragged him out. The Jews from Asia had cried out that Paul was teaching against the Law of Moses and defiling the Temple. This false claim spread like wildfire not only in the Temple, but across the city.

The Roman commander had to make an immediate decision. The only issue was how would he put down the riot and restore order. He would need some trusted soldiers who can enter a crowd outnumbered and impose order. He knew what needed to be done and how to do it. Time was of the essence.

Confusion

1. **While**. What happened during the confusion? As the city raged in confusion, the commander of the Roman cohort received a report.
2. **Seeking**. The Jews were seeking to kill Paul.
3. **Kill**. They wanted to kill Paul because the Asian Jews had spread lies about Paul disrespecting the Law of Moses and defiling the Temple.
4. **Report**. When the report reached the Roman commander, he knew he must take action immediately.
5. **Commander**. The Roman commander of the cohort in Jerusalem knew how to take decisive action.
6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that just a few men stirred up the entire crowd against Paul.
7. **Confusion**. We rejoice today because while the confusion against Paul in Jerusalem raged, the plans of God were moving steadily forward for Paul to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to many people in authority.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that we do not always appreciate the depths of God's plans right away.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's plans for our lives even when they involve danger.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the courage of Paul to go to Jerusalem and face the mob bent on hurting him.**

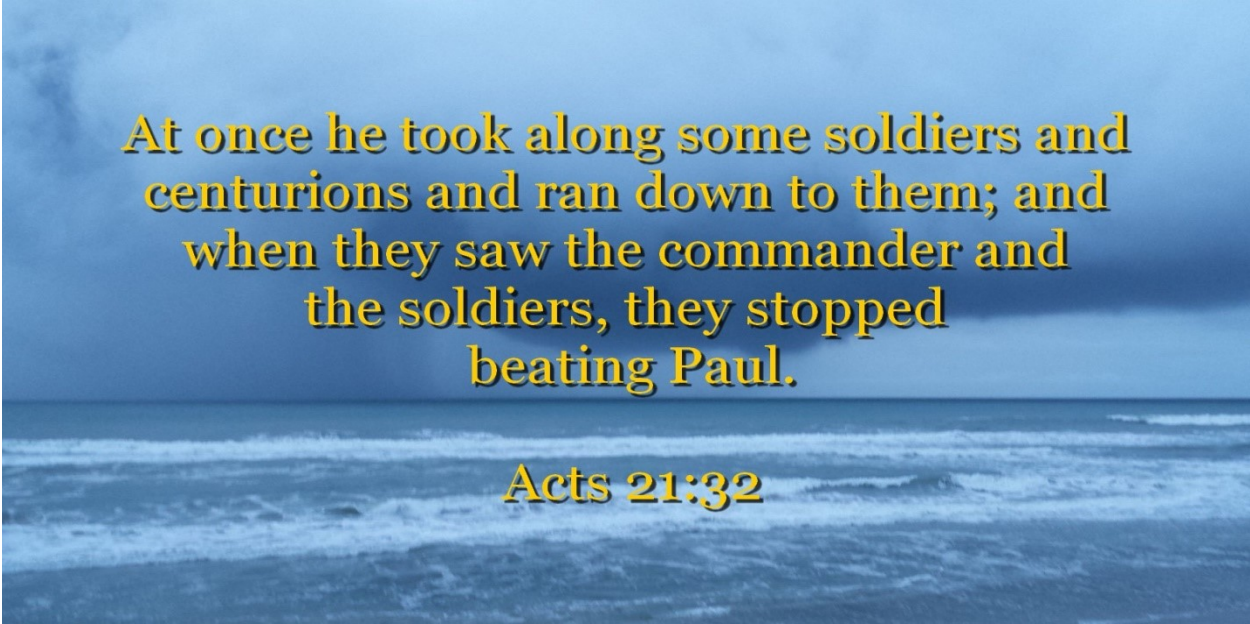
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that the report came to the Roman commander and he was prepared to take action. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His plans to bring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ before commanders, centurions, soldiers, governors, and others in authority?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 773

Soldiers Today



At once he took along some soldiers and centurions and ran down to them; and when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

Acts 21:32

What action did the commander take? He gathered some soldiers and ran down to the crowd.

The commander took along some soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. He chose some centurions to go with them. A centurion in the Roman army was in charge of 100 men and skilled in battle and leadership. Running into a crowd would always pose dangers for both the crowd and the soldiers. Because the crowd had been whipped into a frenzy of emotion, the outcome was far from certain.

The commander and the soldiers saw that Paul was being beaten by the crowd. This caught the commander's immediate attention and called for immediate action. Mob violence simply was not allowed under Roman law. The commander had a duty to provide order and peace, using force if necessary.

The commander then stopped the beating of Paul. For the moment the government had come to the rescue of Paul. The Jews from Asia had

succeeded in part of their plan because Paul had been beaten, but not yet killed. The prophecy of Agabus was still being fulfilled.

Commander

1. **Once**. What happened when the commander got into the crowd? The crowd saw the commander and soldiers coming and stopped beating Paul.

2. **Took**. Upon hearing the report of the confusion in the city, the Roman commander gathered his forces.

3. **Soldiers**. He took soldiers and centurions with him as he went down to the crowd.

4. **Ran**. The commander and his forces ran down to the mob, intending to find out what was happening and why.

5. **Saw**. When the crowd saw the soldiers approaching, they decided to stop beating Paul.

6. **Stopped**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used the soldiers to stop the crowd from beating Paul any further.

7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because Paul knowingly went to Jerusalem after being warned that bonds and afflictions awaited.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that Christians suffer for their faith.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He counts some people worthy of suffering for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the Roman soldiers who stopped the crowd from beating Paul any further.**

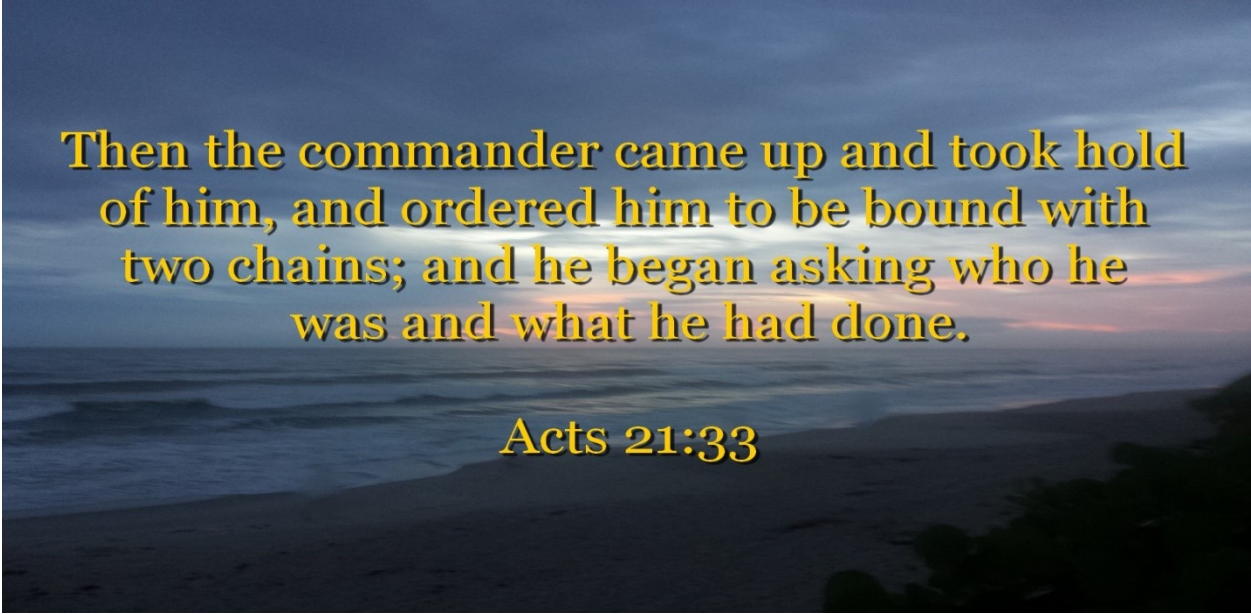
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the Roman soldiers who entered the crowd. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking to God for deliverance for missionaries from physical suffering inflicted by the enemies of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 774

Ordered Today



Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; and he began asking who he was and what he had done.

Acts 21:33

What did the commander do with Paul? The commander came up and took hold of Paul.

When the commander came down with centurions and soldiers, they found Paul being beaten by the crowd. The commander stopped Paul from being beaten and the crowd delivered Paul into the hands of the Gentiles. The Romans were the Gentiles described in the prophecy of Agabus.

The commander ordered that Paul be bound with two chains. The commander inquired of Paul what he had done and who he was. You may recall that at Philippi, Paul did not immediately disclose that he was a Roman citizen entitled to the full protections of Roman law and having their full and final rights adjudicated in court. In this case the crowd had clearly violated Roman law by causing a riot and then inflicting physical harm upon Paul before trial.

The Roman commander wanted straight answers. He wanted to know particularly who Paul was, because the crowd's violence was so intense and

the beating displayed great intensity. The commander also wanted to know what Paul had done, so that charges, if necessary, could be brought in court.

Bound

1. **Commander**. What was the first thing the commander did? Having entered the crowd and found Paul, he ordered Paul to be bound.

2. **Took**. The commander took hold of Paul.

3. **Ordered**. Next, the commander ordered that the soldiers bind Paul.

4. **Bound**. Paul was found by the Romans with two chains.

5. **Two**. Those two chains symbolized the power of Rome over the physical body of Paul, but his life and testimony for Christ continued.

6. **Asking**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Roman commander asking the crowd what happened.

7. **Done**. We rejoice today because the Roman commander not only delivered Paul from the hands of the angry mob and their beating, but he also took the time to try to find what Paul had done to receive such a beating.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that sometimes the government intervenes on behalf of missionaries.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the many ways He delivers missionaries from angry mobs.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the spiritual warfare between the enemies of Jesus Christ and the missionaries who serve Him.**

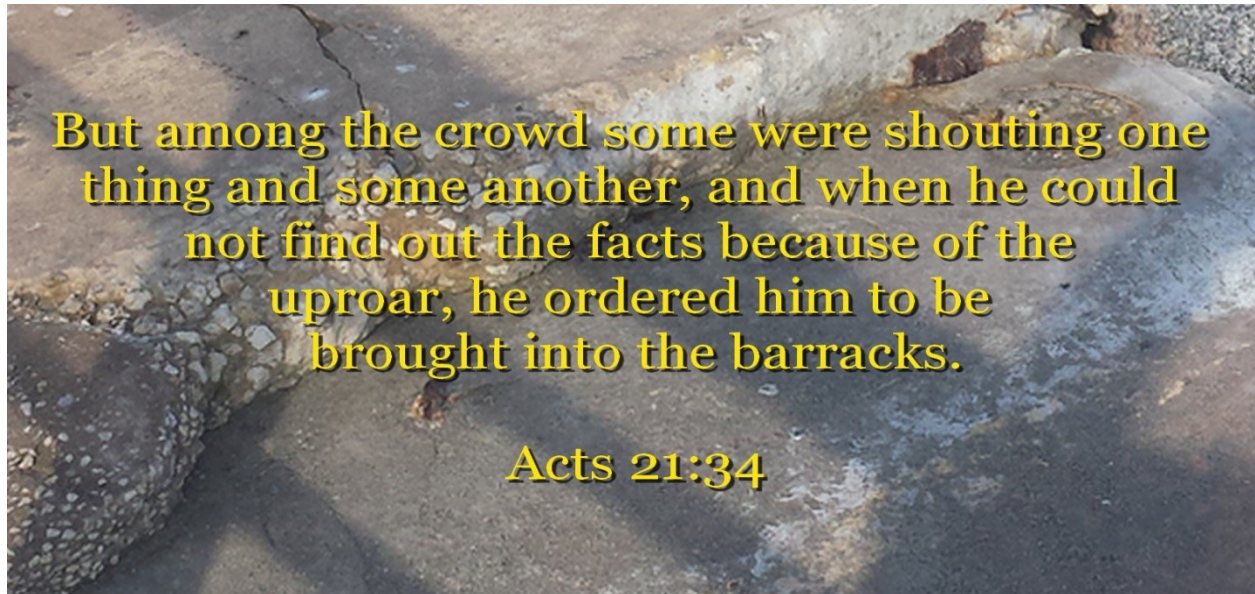
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praying for the missionaries facing angry mobs today. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul being beaten in the crowd in Jerusalem and the Roman commander putting him in chains?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 775

Crowd Today



What did the commander learn about Paul? The commander learned very little about Paul because the crowd was shouting different things.

Following Roman protocol, the commander inquired about the alleged crimes. He wanted to know what Paul had done that provoked such a serious reaction. The crowd, filled with confusion and animosity, but little actual knowledge of events, could not provide a coherent answer.

The commander quickly realized that the crowd was not going to be a source of truth about the facts of what happened. He knew that the crowd wanted to continue beating Paul and ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. The commander knew that there he could examine Paul in a controlled and safe atmosphere.

At this point Paul had been seized and beaten by the Jews. Just as Agabus had prophesied, the Jews took hold of Paul. The fears of Paul's friends were being realized that he would not be safe in Jerusalem. The Jews had turned him over to the Gentiles and Paul was now in bonds, as prophesied.

Uproar

1. **Crowd**. How did the Roman commander's investigation go? It went nowhere because the crowd was confused.
2. **Shouting**. Some people in the crowd were shouting one thing and others were shouting another.
3. **One**. The confusion in the crowd demonstrated the emotional outburst taking hold in the crowd.
4. **Facts**. The Roman commander was unable to ascertain the true facts from the crowd.
5. **Uproar**. Having considered the uproar, the Roman commander knew that further interrogation of the crowd would not produce the desired results.
6. **Ordered**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Roman commander ordered Paul to be taken out of the crowd and into custody.
7. **Barracks**. We rejoice today because Paul was taken back to the barracks and away from the murderous intentions of the crowd, but he still faced bonds and afflictions.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by appreciating how the Roman commander tried to find the truth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the lies had whipped up such a frenzy in the crowd that the Roman commander could not find the truth from the crowd.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the Roman soldiers taking Paul out of the crowd, although they put him in chains.**

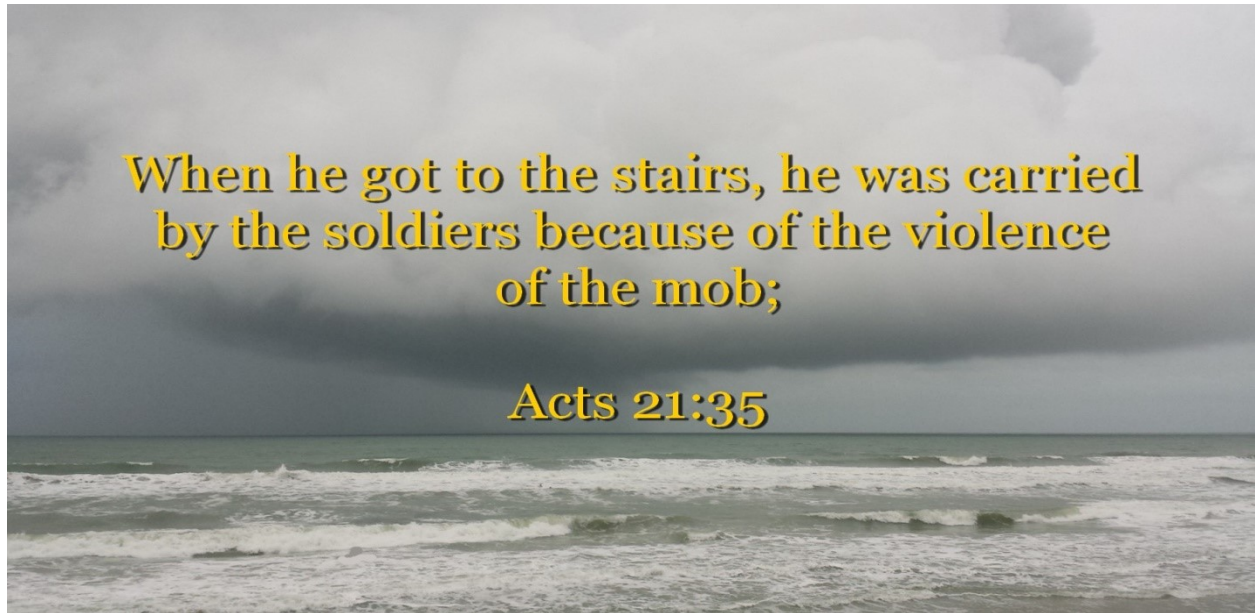
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for giving us His Son as Savior, at the expense of His life's blood. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the example of the Lord Jesus Christ when you are attacked for the Name of the Lord Jesus?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 776

Carried Today



Why did the soldiers carry Paul? The soldiers carried Paul because of the violence of the mob.

The Jews from Asia had started a riot in Jerusalem. They saw Paul in the Temple and claimed that he brought a Gentile into the Temple. They called upon the men of Israel to help them with Paul. In very short order the entire city was thrown into confusion.

The crowd grabbed Paul and began beating him. As the crowd was shouting and rioting, a report came to the Roman commander. He took some soldiers and centurions with him and ran down to the crowd. He found Paul and put two chains on him. The Roman commander also tried to ascertain what Paul had done and what happened.

The crowd was in such an uproar with one party shouting one thing and with another party shouting the other, the Roman commander could not find out what happened. Therefore, he took Paul back to the barracks for further interrogation. As they were taking Paul back to the barracks, the soldiers had to carry Paul because of the mob violence.

Violence

1. **When**. What did the soldiers do when they got to the stairs? They carried Paul up the stairs.
2. **Stairs**. We know the barracks for the soldiers were up high because the Roman commander ran down to the mob.
3. **Carried**. The soldiers carried Paul up the stairs.
4. **Soldiers**. The soldiers came into the mob to stop the riot.
5. **Because**. When the Roman commander saw that Paul was being beaten, he took Paul into custody and put two chains on him.
6. **Violence**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the mob continued to try to beat Paul so that the soldiers had to carry him up the stairs.
7. **Mob**. We rejoice today because Paul endured with grace from God the attack of the mob and never lost his love for them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the soldiers carried Paul up the stairs because of the violence of the mob.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that the mob was not able to kill Paul that day, leaving him available for fruitful service to the Lord Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enduring suffering through the grace of God.**

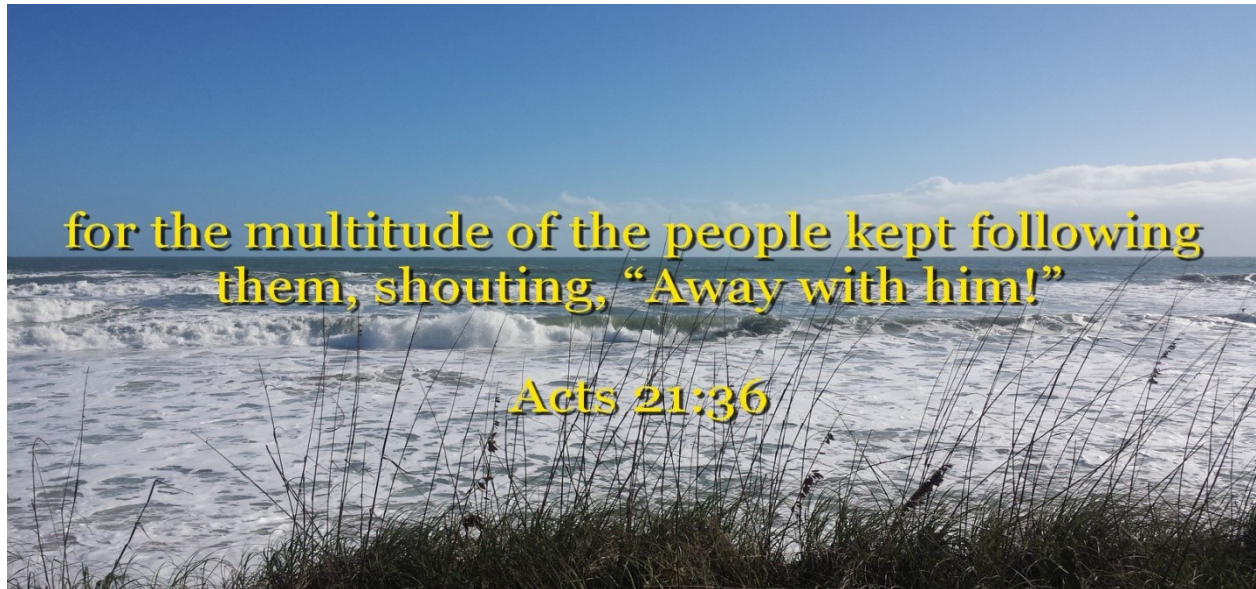
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the missionaries who endured physical sufferings, attacked for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the affliction of Paul and his endurance by the grace of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 777

Multitude Today



What was the crowd doing? The crowd followed the soldiers shouting at them.

The Roman commander had a report that the whole city of Jerusalem was in confusion. He took soldiers with him and ran into the crowd. He found Paul being beaten and took hold of Paul and put two chains upon him. Having tried without success to ascertain the facts surrounding the events, the Roman commander determined to take Paul back to the barracks for further interrogation.

As the soldiers took Paul back to the barracks, the crowd was still trying to harm Paul. Therefore, the soldiers carried Paul back to the barracks. He also had been beaten. The crowd was clearly trying to kill Paul.

As the soldiers carried Paul back to the barracks, the crowd kept yelling at the soldiers. They cried out, "Away with him." The crowd was in a frenzy over Paul because of the lies the Jews from Asia had said to them. They were white-hot with frenzy and out of control. The Roman commander had a duty

to find the facts and carry out justice. Roman justice, however, included a right to a trial before punishment.

Shouting

1. **Multitude**. What was the multitude of people doing? They were following the soldiers back to the barracks.

2. **People**. The people of Jerusalem were in great confusion because of the lies spread by the Jews from Asia in the Temple about Paul.

3. **Kept**. They kept following Paul and the soldiers as they were heading back to the barracks.

4. **Shouting**. The multitude was shouting because they had become an unruly mob in great confusion.

5. **Away**. Even so, they wanted Paul taken away.

6. **With**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that just like the crowd clamored for Jesus to be crucified, so another crowd in Jerusalem called for Paul to be taken away.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because Paul went to Jerusalem and faced the mob because he might have an opportunity to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to the soldiers, the mob, and many other people.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul had the courage of a lion and tremendous faith.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that even in the midst of a mob, an opportunity may arise to bear testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never underestimating the plans of God as He leads us to heaven.**

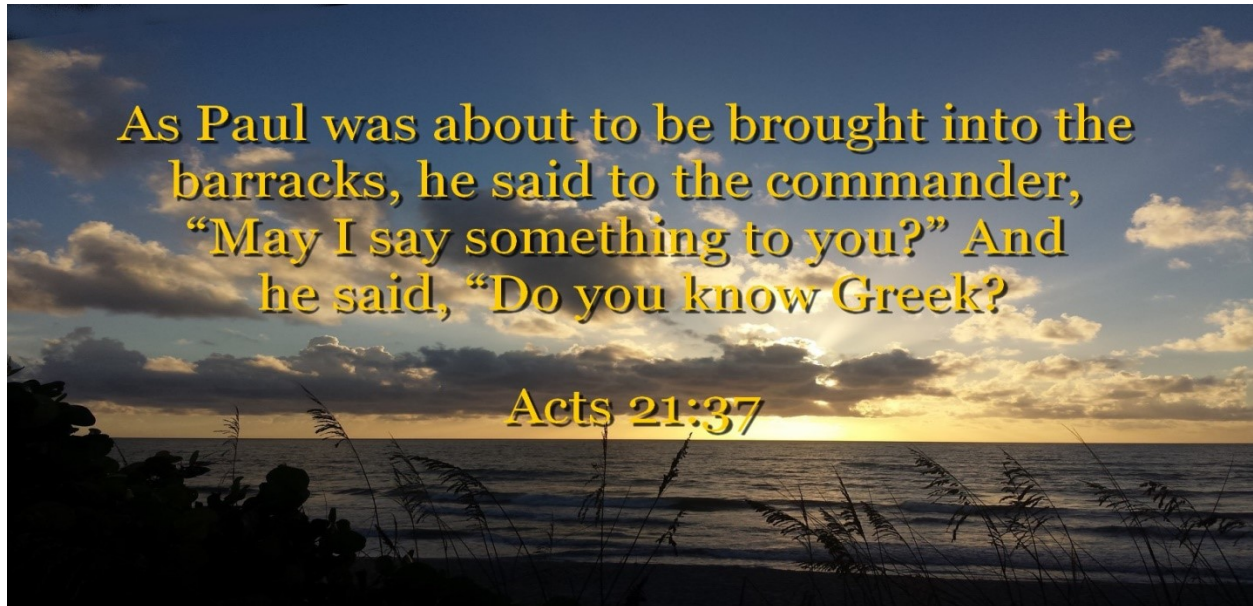
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He alone controls our destinies. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Jesus commanded us not to fear those who can harm the body, but after death have no more power over us?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 778

Barracks Today



What did Paul say to the Roman commander? Paul asked the Roman commander if he could say something to him.

The Roman commander had moved into the crowd, put two chains on Paul, and then carried him back to the barracks. As Paul was about to enter the barracks, he had a question for the Roman commander. Paul asked, "May I say something to you?" The Roman commander responded, "Do you know Greek?"

At Philippi Paul did not disclose immediately that he was a Roman citizen. In fact, the city officials beat him and imprisoned him without a trial. Such conduct by the city magistrates amounted to a serious crime under Roman law. Paul required that those men lead him out of the prison and they complied.

Paul did not immediately disclose that he was a Roman citizen to the Roman commander. Paul often used the law to his advantage. Paul did, however, initiate a dialogue with the Roman commander. The Roman

commander wanted to speak Greek with Paul. Apparently he was unfamiliar with the Hebrew dialect.

Commander

1. **Paul**. What happened when Paul was being brought back to the barracks? Paul wanted to ask the Roman commander a question.

2. **Brought**. The soldiers were taking Paul back and carrying him to the barracks because the mob remained in an uproar.

3. **Barracks**. The Roman commander wanted to take Paul back to the relative safety of the barracks where he could inquire further about what happened.

4. **Commander**. Paul had a question for the Roman commander.

5. **Say**. Paul asked the Roman commander if you could ask him a question.

6. **Know**. Living holy in the family of God means that we thank God that Paul and many other New Testament writers did know New Testament Greek.

7. **Greek**. We rejoice today because Paul knew Greek and conversed in Greek and wrote Greek.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul sought every opportunity to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul had been beaten when he sought an opportunity to talk to the Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His faithfulness to Paul and so many other missionaries who bore witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

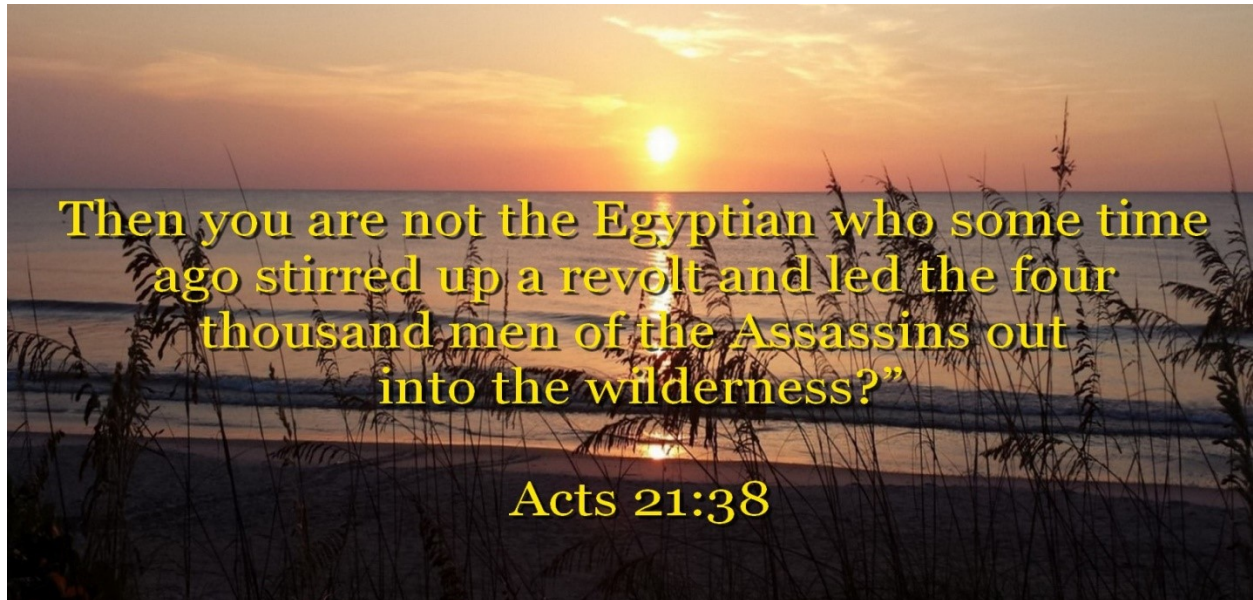
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the great examples that men set of faithfulness to God even after repeated physical abuse. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Jesus suffered tremendously purchase our salvation and then continued loving us by sending messengers around the world proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 779

Egyptian Today



What did the Roman commander say to Paul? The Roman commander talked to him about the Egyptian in the wilderness.

The Roman commander had heard about an Egyptian. That Egyptian stirred up a revolt and led 4000 men of the Assassins out into the wilderness. The Roman commander asked Paul if you were that man.

Paul was not yet well known to the Roman government in Jerusalem. Paul had had several brushes with the law in other places. At times, Paul used the law to his own benefit. Frequently, the Jews stirred up the mobs against Paul and tried to kill him. On a few occasions the government actually helped Paul and protected his legal rights, but not often.

Paul's example demonstrates the enormous courage that Paul lived with every day. Wherever he went strong spiritual forces of evil were opposed to him. He traveled with the missionary team and they faced similar peril. At Corinth the Lord Jesus appeared to Paul and reassured him that He was with Paul and Paul would be safe at Corinth for a while.

Revolt

1. **You**. What did the Roman commander ask Paul about? The Roman commander asked him if he was the Egyptian who led a revolt.
2. **Not**. When Paul spoke Greek to the Roman commander, the Roman commander knew that Paul was not the Egyptian who stirred up a revolt.
3. **Egyptian**. That Egyptian had stirred up a revolt and caused great problems.
4. **Stirred**. The Egyptian stirred up a revolt just like the Jews from Asia stirred up the crowd in the Temple.
5. **Revolt**. The Egyptian led men in revolt against Rome.
6. **Thousand**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Roman commander concluding that Paul could not have been the Egyptian leading 4000 men and revolting against Rome.
7. **Wilderness**. We rejoice today because Paul was not the Egyptian who led 4000 of the Assassins into the wilderness.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul tried to obey the authorities.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that the Romans afforded their citizens a measure of protection under the law.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like the Roman commander who wanted to investigate and find the truth.**

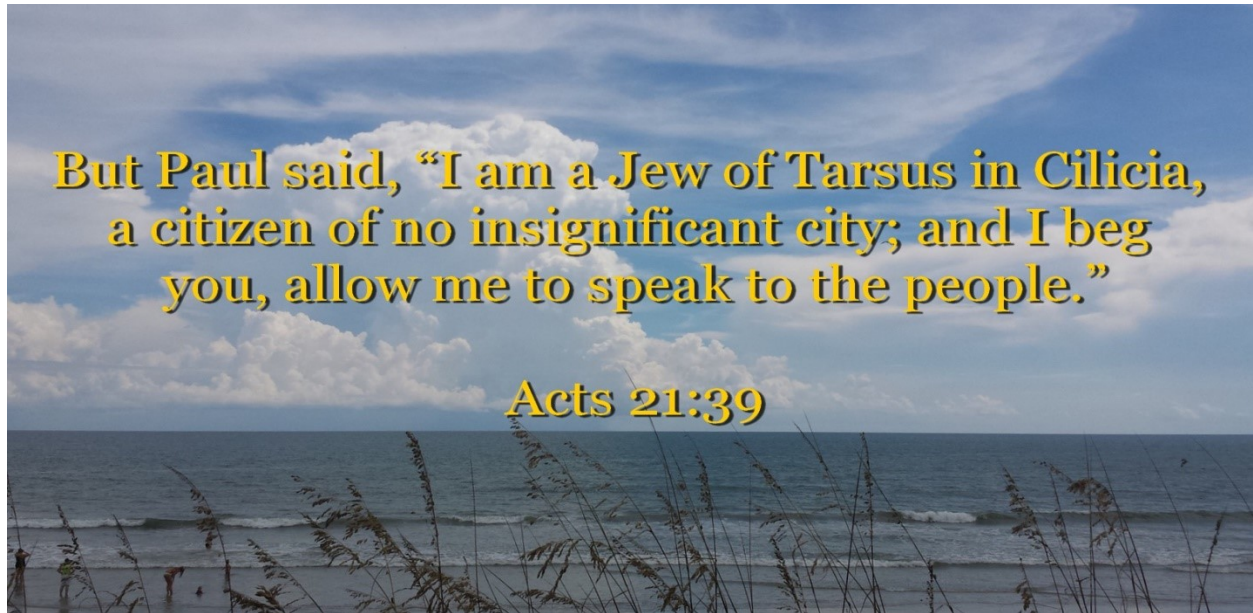
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by generally avoiding revolts against the established government. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God the governments that exist were established by Him to maintain Godly order on earth?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 780

Jew Today



What did Paul say to the Roman commander? Paul said that he was a Jew of Tarsus of Cilicia.

Paul told the Roman commander that he was a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia. That fact alone may have been enough to trigger the Roman commander to ask if Paul was a Roman citizen. But, the Roman commander did not ask. Paul also made it plain he was a citizen of no insignificant city.

Paul actually wanted an opportunity to speak to the crowd, under Roman protection. Paul always wanted to explain the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people. If the Roman commander wanted to understand Paul's side of the story, he would have no better opportunity than for Paul to address the crowd directly. In fact, Paul had been wrongly accused and the charges against him were baseless.

Having been beaten and wearing two chains, and under arrest by the Roman government, Paul did not let the opportunity slip by to address the crowd and proclaim Christ to them. You have to admire the courage and

tenacity of Paul when it comes to proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ to people.

Citizen

1. **Paul**. How did Paul respond to the Roman commander? Paul explained he was a Jew, just like the people in the crowd.

2. **Jew**. Paul, however, was not just any Jew.

3. **Tarsus**. He was a Jew from Tarsus.

4. **Citizen**. Paul also mentioned that he was a citizen of no insignificant city. Perhaps that should have piqued the interest of the Roman commander and caused him to ask if Paul were a Roman citizen, but he did not.

5. **Beg**. Paul said, “I beg you,” because he really wanted to address the crowd.

6. **Speak**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul seized every opportunity to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, even after being beaten by the very crowd to whom he wanted to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **People**. We rejoice today because Paul wanted to speak to the people of Jerusalem, the very Jews who had been beating him moments before, to offer them the free gift of eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for unusual opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God sends us to places and puts us in positions where His glory will shine in the darkness.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking for opportunities to shine the light of God in the darkest places.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by finding opportunities to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to crowds raging in confusion. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking beyond the confusion before us in seeing a group of sinners who need a Savior?

HALLELUJAH!

5

Stairs

Defense Today

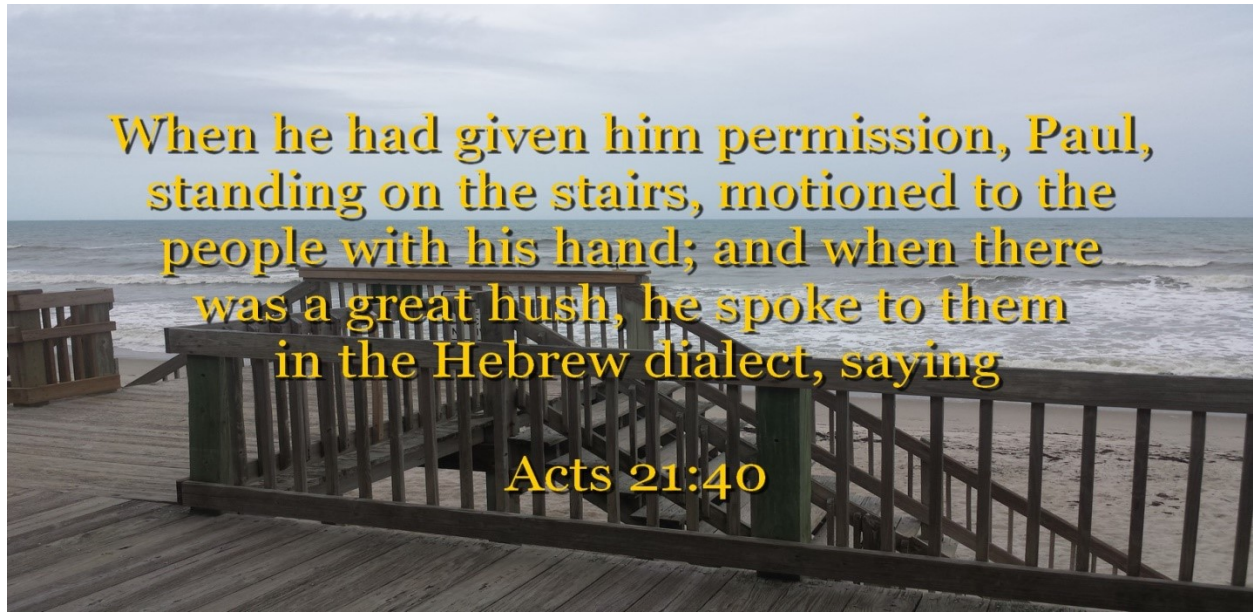
With the angry mob spread out below, seething with desire to murder him, Paul stood on the stairs of the barracks and addressed the crowd under the protection of the Roman soldiers. As Paul waved his hand to silence the crowd, he began to speak to them in the Hebrew dialect.

Paul presented his defense describing how he was born in Tarsus, educated under Gamaliel, and strictly followed the Law of Moses. Paul also related how he was a persecutor of the church and the Council of the elders could testify to the same. Paul then recounted his conversion on the Damascus Road in brilliant detail. After his conversion Paul returned to Jerusalem. Paul received a vision indicating he would be a witness for Christ to the Gentiles far away. At that point, the crowd cried out, throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air, full of rage. The Roman commander then ordered Paul to be taken into the barracks and examined by scourging, not knowing that Paul was a Roman citizen and such an act would be illegal. As Paul was stretched out on the thongs, ready to be scourged, he told the soldier there about his Roman citizenship and he was released and taken back to the barracks. The next day the Roman commander set up a meeting with the Jewish Council who examined Paul.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 781

Spoke Today



How did the Roman commander respond to Paul's request? The Roman commander granted Paul's request.

After Paul obtained the permission from the Roman commander, Paul stood on the stairs. From that vantage point he could overlook the crowd and his voice would carry better. Paul began by motioning with his hand to the people. When there was a great hush, Paul began speaking to them. He addressed them in the Hebrew dialect.

To many of the leading Jews in Jerusalem, Paul was well known as a persecutor of the church in years past. They held a grudge against Paul for turning to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and then proving that Jesus was indeed the Christ. Paul went from being a persecutor of the church to the apostle to the Gentiles.

Many years had passed since Paul was a persecutor of the church. Therefore, many other people had to come up in Jerusalem who knew nothing about Paul, except what the Jews from Asia had told them. Those

Jews from Asia had filled the crowd with lies about Paul, with a specific intent to inflame them to brutal action.

Hebrew

1. **Permission**. What did Paul do with the permission of the Roman commander? Paul addressed the crowd.
2. **Paul**. Paul stood on the stairs above the crowd, out of harm's way and in a position where more people could hear him and see him.
3. **Stairs**. Paul used the stairs as a podium for his address.
4. **Hand**. Paul started by motioning with his hand to the crowd.
5. **Hush**. A great hush fell upon the crowd and Paul began to speak.
6. **Spoke**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provides opportunities in the midst of confusion to proclaim life and peace in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Paul spoke such words to the same crowd who had beaten him just minutes before.
7. **Hebrew**. We rejoice today because Paul kept his senses after being beaten and used the stairs to proclaim Jesus to the crowd.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that opportunities to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ arise at times we may least expect them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by maintaining our composure in Christ so that we may serve Him at all times and in all places with all kinds of people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul standing on the stairs and addressing, in the Hebrew dialect, the crowd that had just tried to kill him.**

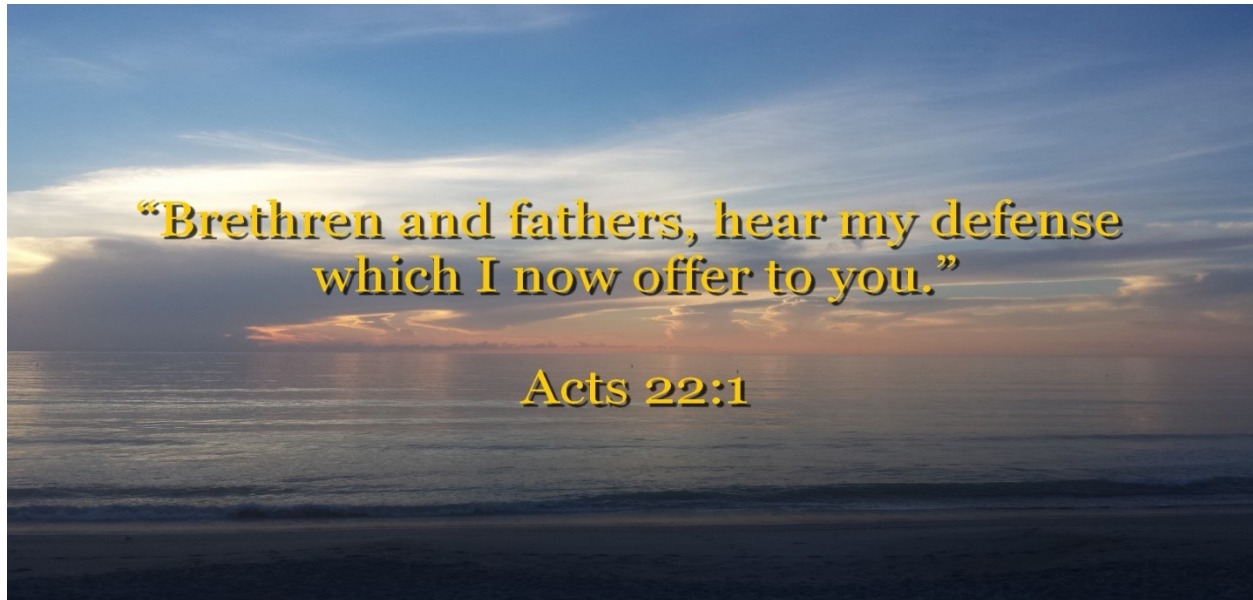
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by keeping our composure under pressure so that we may continue our ministry as opportunities present themselves by the power of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by keeping your wits about you as the people around you lose theirs so that you may proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 782

Brethren Today



What did Paul say to the crowd? Paul addressed the crowd as brethren and fathers.

Paul had been beaten by the crowd until the soldiers showed up and took him into custody. Jews from Asia had spread lies about Paul defiling the Temple and ignoring the Law of Moses. Those Jews stirred up the people of Jerusalem and they grabbed Paul and dragged him out of the Temple. They began beating Paul until the Roman soldiers arrived. Even then, they still tried to attack Paul as he was being taken to the barracks. The violence of the crowd was quite extreme.

Paul then began a discussion with a Roman commander. He described himself as a citizen of Tarsus, not an insignificant city. Apparently he also spoke Greek with the Roman commander. Paul requested permission to address the crowd and the Roman commander granted it.

Paul stood on the stairs and motioned to the crowd with his hand. A hush fell over the crowd. He addressed the crowd as brethren and fathers. He asked them to listen to his defense. Paul, under the power of the Holy

Spirit, began to inform the crowd about the truth of the matter. He was going to show the crowd the truth about what happened at the Temple. He was also going to share with them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Defense

1. **Brethren**. How did Paul address the audience? Paul addressed the men of Israel as brethren and fathers.

2. **Fathers**. Paul chose the term brethren and fathers to emphasize his identity with them on a national level. They were all Jews.

3. **Hear**. After the hush fell upon the crowd, Paul wanted them to listen to his words very carefully.

4. **My**. Paul was making a personal defense and said so with the words “my defense”.

5. **Defense**. Paul was not just defending himself, but actually making an apology. In the New Testament world, an apology was not only a defense, but actually an explanation of the truth.

6. **Now**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provided an opportunity for Paul to proclaim the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ to a large audience and Paul took advantage of it right then.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because Paul presented his defense to “you”, referring to the crowd.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by recognizing the opportunities God sets before us to bear witness to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by finding points of identity with the people we're speaking to.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the natural man cannot receive the things of God because they are foolishness to him.**

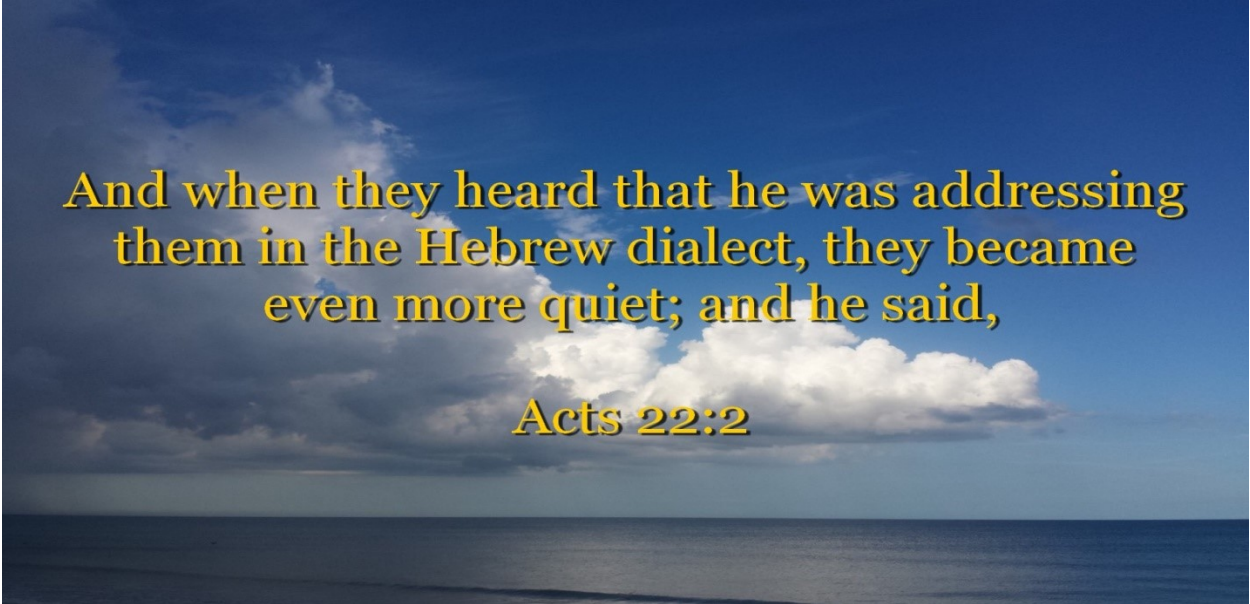
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by discerning the opportunities God provides in the midst of chaos to speak the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God to help you find the right words to say at the right time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 783

Addressing Today



And when they heard that he was addressing
them in the Hebrew dialect, they became
even more quiet; and he said,

Acts 22:2

What language did Paul use to address the crowd? Paul spoke to them in the Hebrew dialect.

As Paul stood on the stairs of the Roman barracks in Jerusalem, the crowd was sprawled out below, still thirsting for his blood. Confusion still reigned in the crowd because of the lies spread against Paul by the Jews from Asia. The Roman commander granted Paul's request to address the crowd.

Standing on the stairs Paul raised his hand and a hush fell over the crowd. Paul addressed them as brethren and fathers of Israel. Paul used the Hebrew dialect to speak to them. When the crowd heard him speaking in the Hebrew dialect, they gave him their full attention.

The struggle taking place in Jerusalem on that day was more than just flesh and blood. The Roman government wanted to pursue justice, but they also had an interest in preserving the political peace in Jerusalem. Those same pressures caused Pilate to turn over Jesus to the Jews for crucifixion, even though Pilate knew that Jesus had committed no crime at all. Therefore, the Roman government could not be trusted to provide justice.

The Jews likewise sought to kill Paul because they rejected Jesus as the Messiah of Israel. Paul wanted to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with every crowd he could find, even those who just tried to kill him.

Quiet

1. **When**. What happened when Paul started speaking? A hush fell over the crowd.

2. **Heard**. The crowd took notice when Paul addressed them, standing on the stairs of the barracks.

3. **Addressing**. By addressing the crowd, Paul wanted to present not only his defense but also the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Hebrew**. Paul spoke in a Hebrew dialect to the people.

5. **They**. When they heard Paul speaking to them in a Hebrew dialect the crowd gave him their attention.

6. **Became**. Living holy in the family of God means that God can gain the attention of a crowd with a messenger speaking their language so that they become interested in what he has to say.

7. **Quiet**. We rejoice today because the crowd became quiet when they heard Paul begin his defense.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that talking in the language of the crowd may gain your hearing.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by considering carefully not only what to say, but how to say it.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the many skills of Paul as he shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

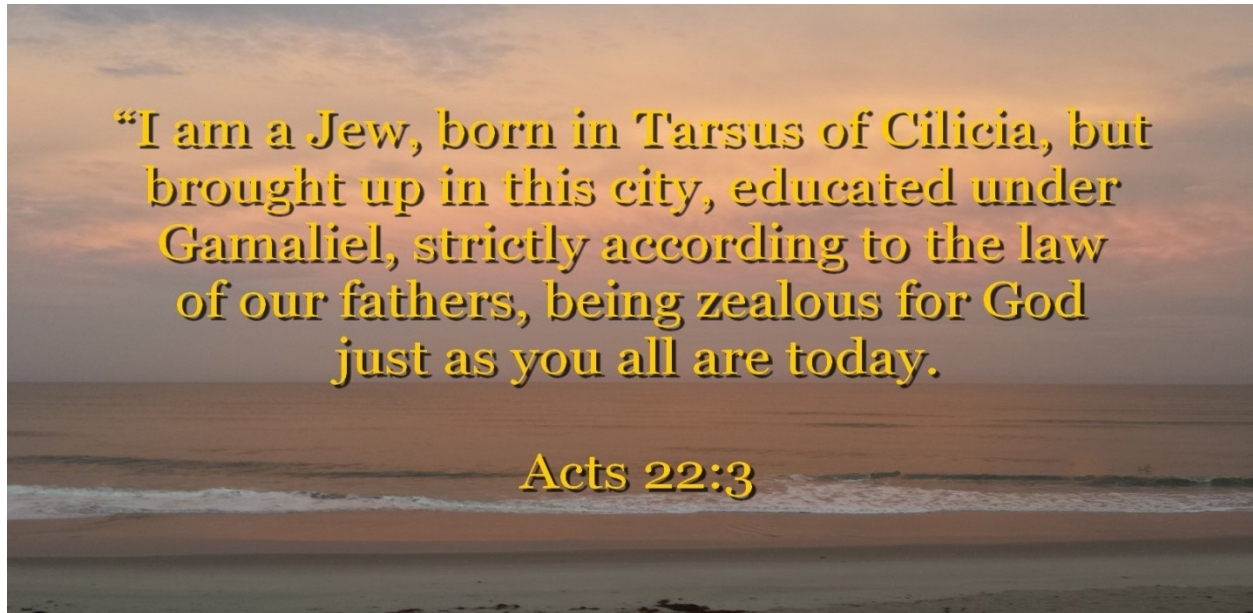
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide an opening to talk to an angry crowd about the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking care not only about the words that you speak to others, but how you speak to them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 784

Jew Today



What ties did Paul have to the city of Jerusalem? Paul was brought up in Jerusalem and educated under Gamaliel.

As a child, Paul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia. He described that city as not insignificant. Paul did not disclose that he was actually a Roman citizen, vested with all the rights of Roman jurisprudence. Specifically, Paul was entitled to a trial before being punished or chained.

Paul emphasized his ties to the city of Jerusalem to demonstrate to them that he was very familiar with the Law of Moses and Jewish traditions. Paul had studied under Gamaliel, a well-known Jewish teacher. Paul described himself as being educated strictly according to the Law of our fathers. He was zealous for God, just as the crowd was today. Paul proved that he was a very devout Jew and well-educated in the Jewish religion and tradition.

Paul wanted the crowd to understand he was one of them. He was a Jew from Tarsus, but raised in Jerusalem. His education took place under Gamaliel in Jerusalem. Like the crowd before him, Paul was very zealous for

God. Paul had provided proof that he was a Jew just like everyone in the crowd and was zealous for God.

Zealous

1. **I**. How did Paul build identify with the crowd? Paul described his background.

2. **Jew**. Paul identified himself as a Jew.

3. **Tarsus**. He was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, not an insignificant city.

4. **City**. Tarsus was an important Roman city, and Paul was a Roman citizen. Paul also had links to the city of Jerusalem, because he was brought up there.

5. **Gamaliel**. Paul studied under Gamaliel, a well-known teacher of the Jews.

6. **Zealous**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul also said that he understood the zealous Jews before him, because was zealous for God also.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because Paul tried to connect with the Jews before him by sharing his background and ties to the people he called “you”.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul shared his background with the Jews before him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by capitalizing on points of similarity with our audiences as we speak to them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul began his defense by showing points of similarity with the audience before him.**

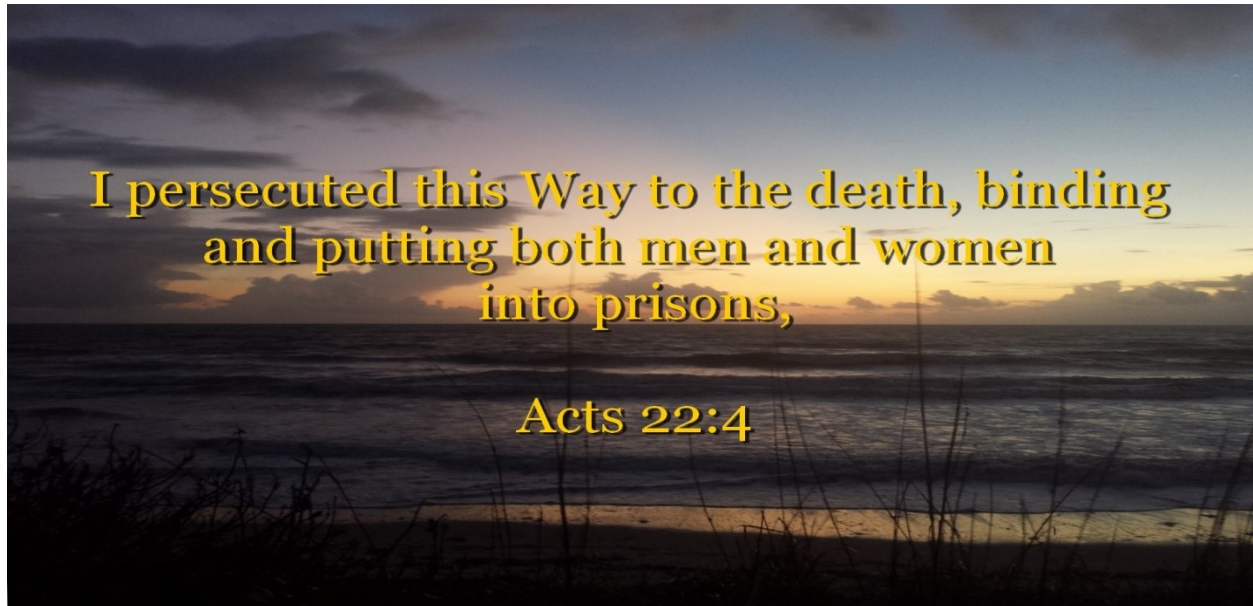
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by presenting the defense by starting with points of similarity between us and the audience. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following Paul's example of finding points of similarity with the audience you are trying to reach with your defense?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 785

I Persecuted Today



What did Paul say about his days persecuting the church? Paul also described himself as a persecutor of this Way.

As Paul stood on the stairs leading up to the barracks in Jerusalem, the angry mob stood below. Paul first explained his ties to Jerusalem and his education under Gamaliel.

Paul then described how he was a persecutor of the Way. Paul persecuted Christians both in Jerusalem and elsewhere. In Jerusalem he went house to house dragging people out of their homes, both men and women. They would deliver them to the chief priests and they would be put in prison for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the Savior.

Paul identified himself with the Jews before him who sought to persecute the followers of the Way. Paul had not yet relayed to the crowd his experience on the Damascus Road where the Lord Jesus met him and he was converted to following the Way. Paul gave a great sermon that day, but the same crowd listening intently had just beaten him based upon the lies of the

Jews from Asia. Meanwhile, the Roman commander could hear every word and make a judgment about how to proceed.

Way

1. **I**. Why did Paul bring up his background as a persecutor of the church? Paul wanted to build more identity with the unruly mob in front of him.

2. **Persecuted**. Paul explained how he persecuted the church.

3. **Way**. Paul referred to the church as the Way.

4. **Death**. He persecuted the church to the point of death.

5. **Binding**. He was binding and putting both men and women in prison.

6. **Men**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Saul of Tarsus persecuting both men and women because they were followers of the Way.

7. **Prison**. We rejoice today because Paul of Tarsus, a chief persecutor of the church, became the chief apostle to the Gentiles, after putting many Jews in prison for following the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Paul who knew just what to say and how to say it to an angry mob.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by learning from the Scriptures how to speak with people about the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul presented his defense, starting with the points of similarity he had with the Jews before him, including their zeal for God.**

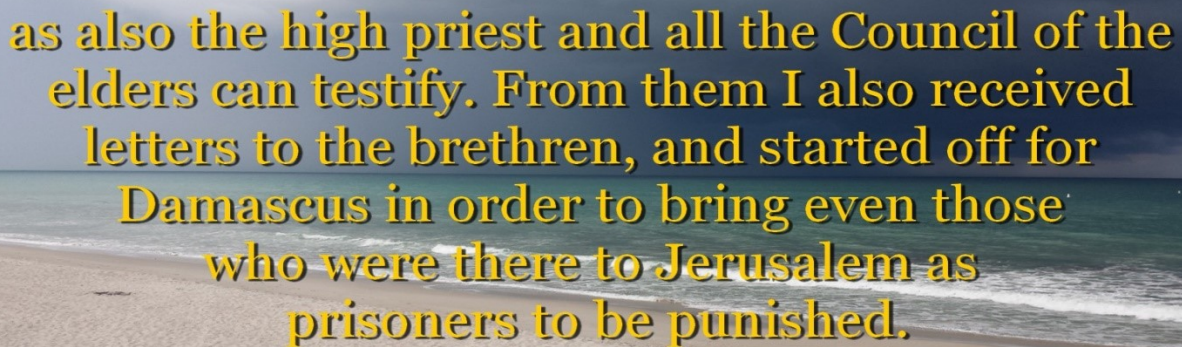
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by carefully explaining our background so that people can understand the change that God brought into our lives by His loving power. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your personal testimony and conversion to reach all kinds of people for the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 786

Testify Today



as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

Acts 22:5

What could the high priest and the all the counsel of the elders testify about? They could all testify that Paul was a chief persecutor of the Way in the days when he was known as Saul of Tarsus.

Paul was making a convincing defense to the mob before him. The facts completely supported his position. He explained that he was a Jew, born in Tarsus and raised in Jerusalem. He was educated under Gamaliel, and an intense persecutor of the church. His credentials could not have been higher as a young man in Judaism.

Paul further explained his conversion to Jesus as Messiah of Israel. Paul began by recounting how he started off to Damascus. He was intent upon arresting Christians both in Jerusalem and in Damascus. He had letters from the officials in Jerusalem to arrest all the Christians he could find and bring them back for prison, trial and death. Paul was breathing venom against the church of Jesus Christ, but then something dramatic happened in his life and he was changed forever.

Paul emphasized what his life was like before he came to Jesus Christ. Then he emphasized what happened with Christ and how he became a follower of the Way himself. Finally, he told them what his life was like after becoming a believer in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Letters

1. **High**. What did Paul say about the high priest? Paul said the high priest could testify that Paul was a persecutor of the church.

2. **Elderhood**. Paul also said the elders of the Council could make the same statements about Paul.

3. **Letters**. Both the elders and the high priest issued letters for Paul to take to Damascus so that he could persecute the believers in the Way that he found there.

4. **Damascus**. At the time of his conversion, Paul was on the way to Damascus to persecute the church.

5. **Bring**. The chief priests and the elderhood granted Paul authority to arrest whomever he could find of followers in the Way in Damascus.

6. **Bound**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul was going to Damascus to find people and bring them bound to Jerusalem for merely following the Way.

7. **Jerusalem**. We rejoice today because Jerusalem has been God's chosen city on earth for thousands of years, but Jesus said the prophets died there and so did He.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul once was a fierce persecutor of the Way with the full authority of the Jerusalem Jews behind him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that many religious leaders actually promote the persecution of the church of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that many people in the church today once were enemies of Christ and violent aggressors.**

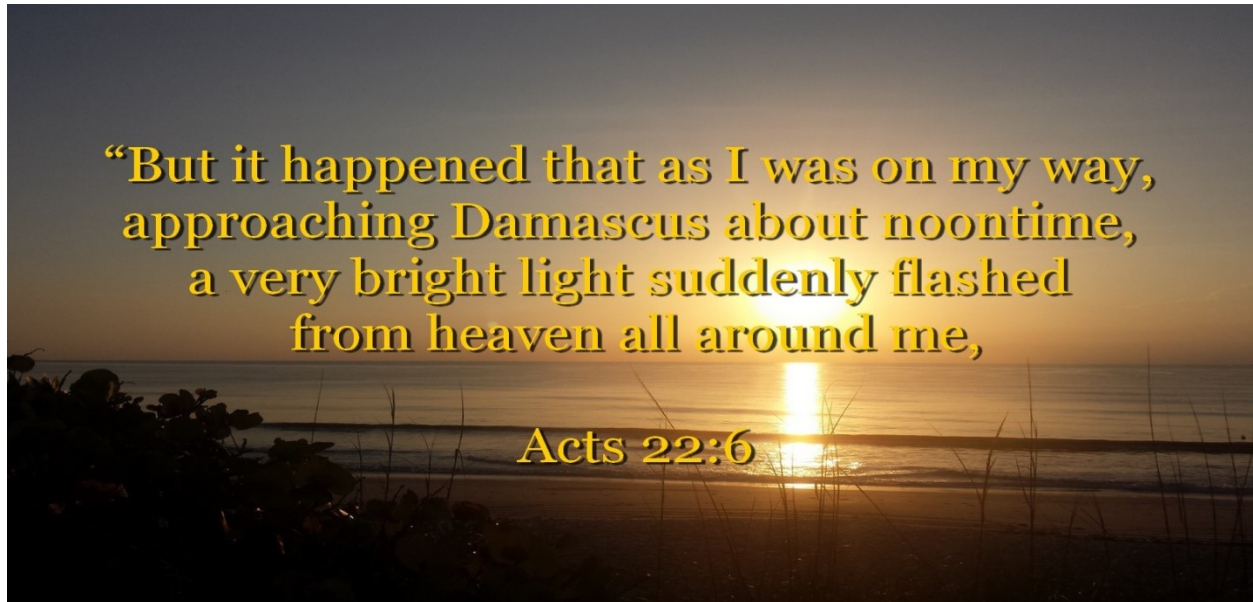
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that in Christ we have become new creatures at the moment of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His infinite mercies that extend even to violent aggressors of the church?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 787

Light Today



What happened when Paul was approaching Damascus? He saw a great light.

As Paul stood on the steps in Jerusalem offering his defense to the crowd who was trying to kill him, Paul brought up his personal testimony for Christ. He described how he changed on the Damascus Road. He was heading to Damascus to arrest all the Christians he could find and bring them back to prison and death in Jerusalem.

As he was walking down the road, a bright light flashed around about noontime. The light flashed from heaven all around him. A light bright enough to be noticed in Jerusalem flashing would gain anybody's attention except perhaps a blind man. Paul was not blind before the light, but then he lost his eyesight.

Paul explained in detail his powerful testimony. As he stood on the stairs, he knew what awaited him. Even so, he did not shrink back from telling his testimony to the entire crowd. He wanted everyone to know that

he was first of all just like them but then he met Jesus of Nazareth as Savior. Jesus was alive, risen from the dead.

Flashed

1. **Happened**. What happened on the Damascus Road to change Paul's life forever? The bright light flashed.

2. **Damascus**. As Paul journeyed towards Damascus and was approaching the city, a bright light from heaven flashed all around him.

3. **Noontime**. The light flashed brightly at noontime.

4. **Light**. The light from heaven was so bright it illuminated the area all around Paul.

5. **Flashed**. The light flashed, indicating the momentary appearance of the brilliant light.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that God takes extraordinary measures to intervene in the lives of some people, changing them forever right on the spot.

7. **Me**. We rejoice today because Paul described the light as flashing around "me", making his testimony very personal to the crowd below as he stood on the stairs of the barracks in Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the bright light that shone around Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the day the light shone in our lives and we heard Jesus Christ calling us to salvation in Him alone.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He is no respecter of persons and loves the most violent of aggressors.**

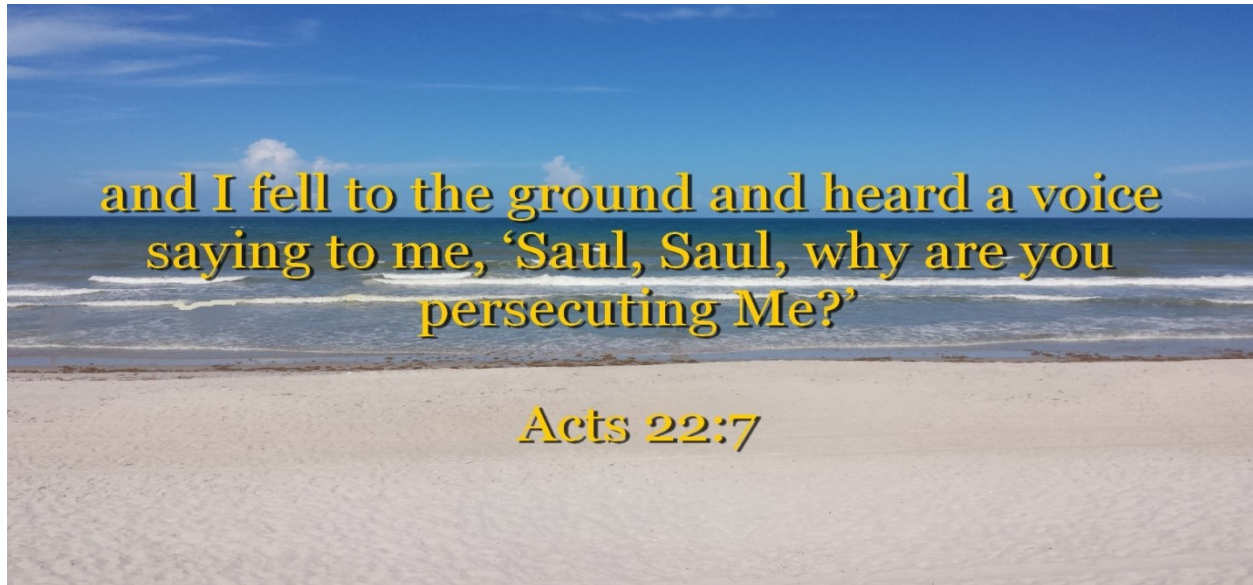
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the light flashed around Paul on the Damascus Road, grabbing his attention for the biggest event in his life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the day the light flashed in your life and you were born again by the powerful love of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 788

Voice Today



How did Paul respond to the light? Paul fell to the ground immediately.

After Paul fell to the ground on the Damascus Road, because the light at noontime flashed around him, he heard a voice. The voice spoke directly to Paul and called him by name. The voice said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Paul gained immediate insight into several different things. First the voice was coming from heaven and he could not understand who was speaking to him. Paul did understand, however, that the voice knew his name. Imagine a voice from heaven calling your name twice and addressing you directly.

As Paul headed off to Damascus, he was convinced he was serving God. In fact, he never knew God before that day on the Damascus Road. Paul was suggesting to everybody in the crowd that they were just like Paul on the Damascus Road. They all thought they were doing the will of God by beating Paul. Actually, they were opposing the will of God because God sent Paul to bring them the message of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. While they

were beating Paul, they had no idea they were persecuting Jesus Christ who had sent Paul to them for salvation.

Persecuting

1. **Fell**. Why did Paul fall the ground? Paul fell to the ground when the bright light flashed around on the Damascus Road.

2. **Ground**. The light had a profound effect upon Paul and it was instantaneous because he fell to the ground.

3. **Voice**. Then a Voice came out of heaven.

4. **Saul**. The Voice called out Paul's old name, Saul, Saul.

5. **Why**. The Voice also ask a penetrating question starting with why.

6. **Persecuting**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus asked Paul why he was persecuting Jesus?

7. **Me**. We rejoice today because Jesus protects His own children and He equates persecuting His children with persecuting Jesus Himself.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus because He seeks and saves the lost.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus knew the name of Saul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus equates persecuting His church with persecuting Jesus Himself.**

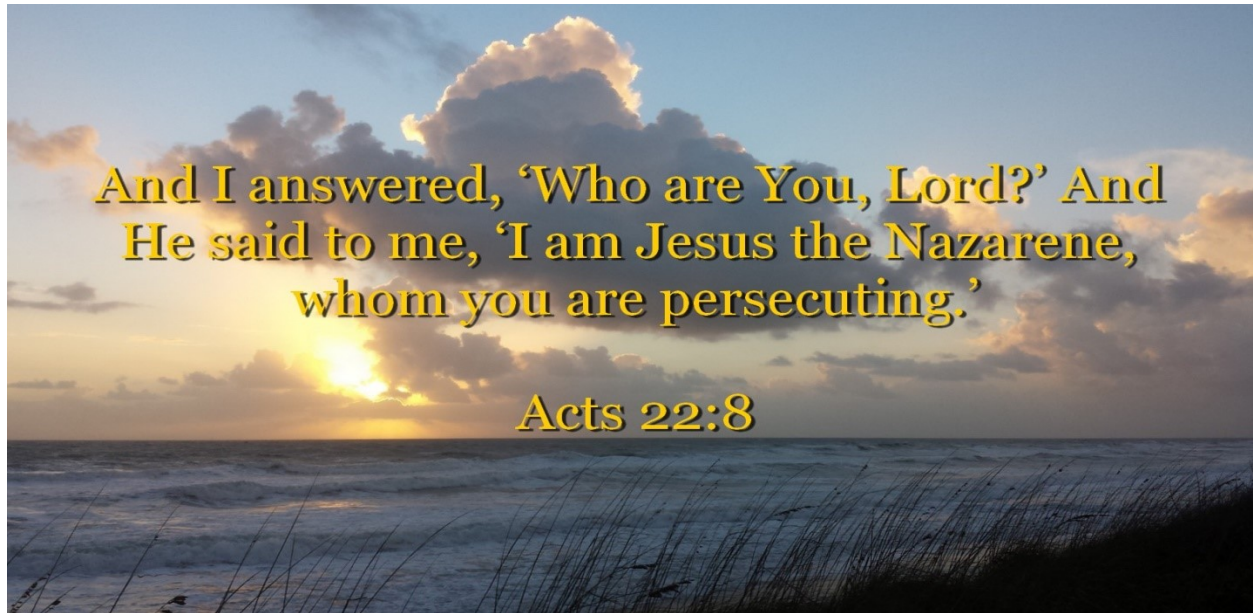
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for His careful eye which He keeps upon all of us all the time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising Jesus that He protects His Church at all times?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 789

Who Today



What did Paul say to the voice from heaven? Paul asked, “Who are You, Lord?”

At noontime on the Damascus Road, a great light flashed around Paul. A voice called the name of Saul and ask him why he was persecuting Me. Paul then answered the voice by asking his own question, “Who are You, Lord?” The voice then replied, “I am Jesus the Nazarene, Whom you are persecuting.”

Paul got the answer from the voice, just not the answer he could ever have expected. Not only did the voice know Paul’s name, He had a very penetrating question for Paul. Jesus identified Himself as the One Paul was persecuting. Paul may not have made that clear identification between persecuting the church equaled persecuting Jesus Himself. Paul had already rejected all the stories about Jesus, and about His death and resurrection as God.

Paul could no longer deny the stories because the voice of Jesus was talking to him from heaven. The voice clearly identified Himself as Jesus of

Nazareth. For the first time in his life, Paul knew with certainty that Jesus Christ was alive and took notice of him. Paul was pierced with the knowledge that by persecuting the Christians in Damascus and elsewhere, he was effectively persecuting Jesus Christ Himself who was alive and was resurrected from the dead. Jesus was indeed the Messiah of Israel and Paul knew it.

Jesus

1. **I.** How did Paul respond to Jesus? Paul said, “I answered.”
2. **Answered.** Paul answered Jesus with a question.
3. **Who.** Paul wanted to know who was talking with him.
4. **Are.** Paul called him Lord, indicating that Paul understood he was dealing with a very mighty power.
5. **You.** Paul truly did not know who was talking to him and asked, “Who are you?”
6. **Jesus.** Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus identified Himself to Paul, “I am Jesus the Nazarene, Whom you are persecuting.”
7. **Persecuting.** We rejoice today because Jesus the Nazarene, our Savior, had a divine appointment with Paul on the Damascus Road that changed the life of Paul forever.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the beautiful way that the Lord Jesus turned the heart of Paul to righteousness by faith in Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus identified Himself as Jesus the Nazarene.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by appreciating the many different ways that God calls people into the family of God.**

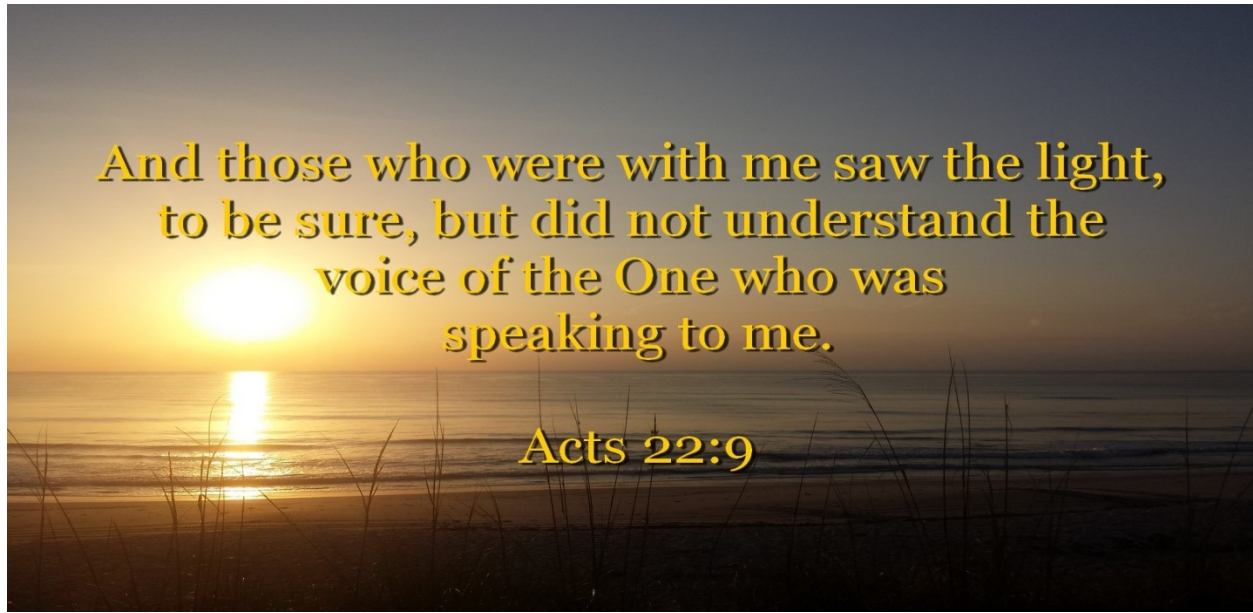
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus told Paul that he was persecuting Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ so that our living Savior met Paul on the Damascus Road?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 790

Voice Today



What about the other people with Paul on the road? The people who were with Paul on the road saw the light.

Paul had multiple witnesses to what happened on the road to Damascus. They saw the light flash at noon and illuminate the road. They also heard the voice of the One speaking to Paul, but they did not understand it.

As Paul addressed the crowd in Jerusalem, he gave a very graphic picture of his conversion on the Damascus Road. He let them know that his background was similar to theirs, being a Jew raised in Jerusalem. Yet, he was educated under Gamaliel, indicating he was advanced in knowledge above his contemporaries. Paul was a Jew of the Jews and zealous for God, or so he thought.

While Paul thought, originally, he was zealous for God by persecuting the Christians, Paul learned he was sadly mistaken. He met Jesus on the Damascus Road and was converted on the spot to faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah and Savior of Israel and the world. Paul shared that testimony

with the people in Jerusalem trying to kill him, because he actually believed that Jesus Christ wanted everyone to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, even the enemies of God like all of us and Paul.

Speaking

1. **With**. What happened to the traveling companions of Paul? They saw the light and heard the Voice.
2. **Me**. Paul said they heard the Voice and saw the light.
3. **Saw**. The people around Paul saw the brilliant light at noontime and then saw Paul fall to the ground.
4. **Understand**. Although they heard the Voice from heaven, they could not understand the words.
5. **Voice**. Jesus identified Himself as that Voice from heaven, calling him by name and confronting him with the persecution.
6. **One**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus spoke and the companions of Paul heard the voice, but could not understand the words which Paul understood clearly.
7. **Speaking**. We rejoice today because Jesus was speaking to Paul on the Damascus Road about persecution.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that people on the Damascus Road heard the voice but did not understand the words spoken to Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for having a direct conversation with Paul on the Damascus Road.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the words and presence of the Lord Jesus brought Saul to salvation on the Damascus Road.**

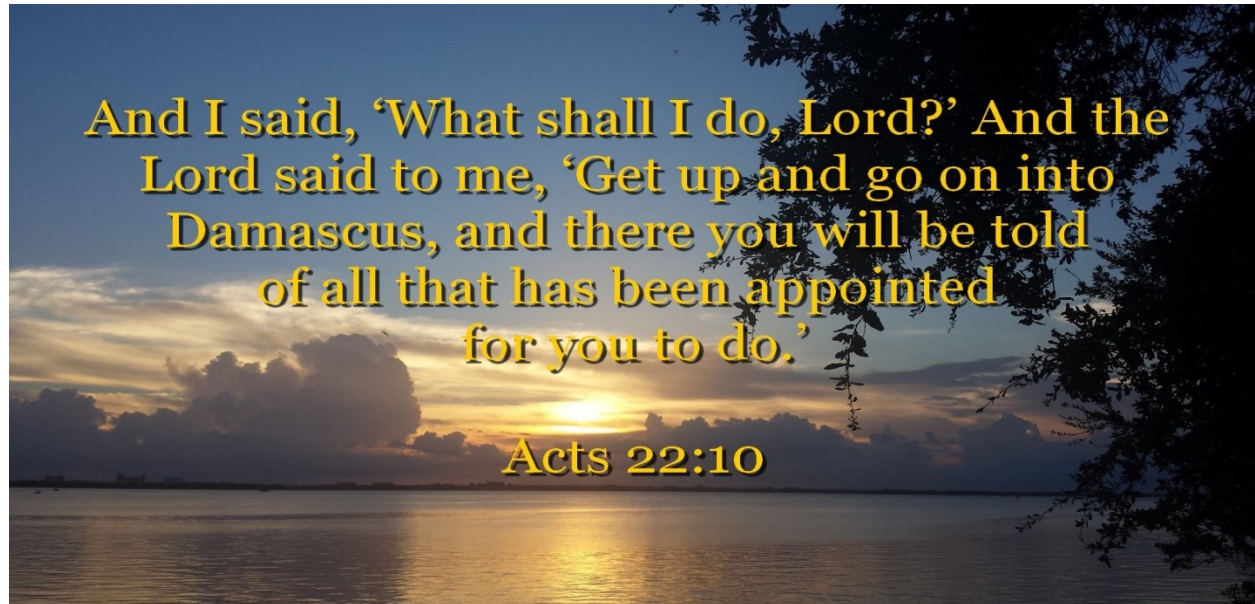
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the many ways He shows people that He loves them and drags them out of their sin into His marvelous light. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His mercies which extend His love and salvation to some of the most wicked people on earth?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 791

Go Today



What did Paul say to Jesus on the Damascus Road? Paul asked, “What shall I do, Lord?”

Paul heard a voice from heaven about noontime as he was traveling to Damascus to persecute the people of the Way. That voice identified Himself as Jesus then told Paul that he was persecuting Jesus by persecuting His church.

Jesus then responded that Paul should get up and go into Damascus and there he would be told all that had been appointed for him to do. Notice that the Lord Jesus said all that it was appointed for Paul to do. All that Paul was to do included standing before the angry crowd in Jerusalem on the day he related this account of his conversion.

Paul told the gripping story of conversion. The Lord Jesus directly intervened in Paul’s life as he was persecuting Jesus Himself. Paul suddenly understood that persecuting the people of the Way amounted to persecuting Jesus Himself. Paul clearly explained to the crowd below him that the Lord

Jesus Christ had been resurrected from the grave and still paid very careful attention to what was going on with the church.

Appointed

1. **What**. How did Paul learn what he was supposed to do? Paul learned what to do in Damascus.

2. **Do**. Paul was blind and also unsure of his next steps because he did not know what to do after hearing from Jesus.

3. **Lord**. Paul addressed Jesus as Lord and he needed to know what his next step should be.

4. **Go**. The Lord Jesus told him to get up and go. Paul's destination remained the same, but his reason for going there had changed radically.

5. **Damascus**. Paul was going to Damascus to persecute the believers, but now a devout man would tell Paul about his salvation.

6. **Told**. Living holy in the family of God means that God told Paul in Damascus all that he was appointed to do for the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Appointed**. We rejoice today because God has appointed works for us to do which He prepared beforehand that we would walk in them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the deep plans of God for our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God will show us the plans about what we should do.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to seek God and learn His plans for our life.**

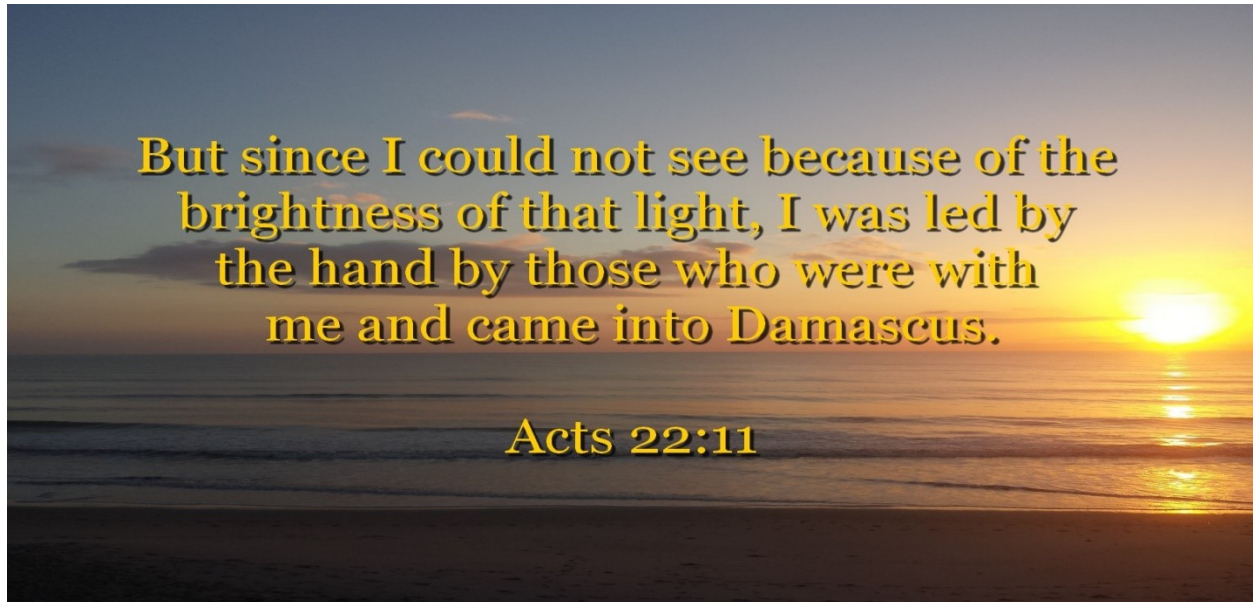
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by seeking God's face so that He will reveal His plans to us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to show to you the plans He has for you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 792

Led Today



What happened to Paul's eyes? Paul could not see because of the brightness of that light.

After the Lord Jesus told Paul to go into Damascus, Paul had trouble because the bright light had blinded him. Those who were with Paul led him into Damascus by the hand. Paul had become blind, but then he saw for the first time in his life. Paul did not recognize it at first, but he had been blind towards Jesus and actually never knew God. Because both God the Father and God the Son coexist at all times, to know One is to know the Other. God the Father reveals God the Son to people by faith and then God the Son reveals God the Father to the same person.

Paul left Jerusalem intent upon persecuting the people of the Way in Damascus. Paul arrived in Damascus a blind man who could now see for the first time in his life. Although he had not seen Jesus with his eyes, he had met Jesus spiritually on the road to Damascus.

As Paul stood on the stairs in Jerusalem addressing the angry mob below him, Paul implied to them that they were blind too. Only Jesus can

clear the eyes and banish the spiritual blindness. Until they received Him as Savior, their blindness would continue.

Damascus

1. **But**. What trouble was Paul having on the Damascus Road? Paul could no longer see.

2. **Since**. Since Paul had seen the bright flash of light at noontime, Paul was unable to see enough to make his own way.

3. **See**. Paul hardly imagined that he would see such a bright flash of light on the Damascus Road that he would be blinded and unable to travel on his own.

4. **Brightness**. The brightness was so intense that Paul lost his sight over it.

5. **Led**. Paul had to be led by the hand so that he could find his way to Damascus.

6. **Hand**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul left Jerusalem seeking to persecute the followers of the Way in Damascus, but actually had to be led by the hand as a blind man when he arrived in Damascus.

7. **Damascus**. We rejoice today because Paul would never forget the Damascus Road where he met Jesus of Nazareth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the place where we first met Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that though Paul was blind, he saw for the first time in his life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He took away our spiritual blindness by the power and love of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

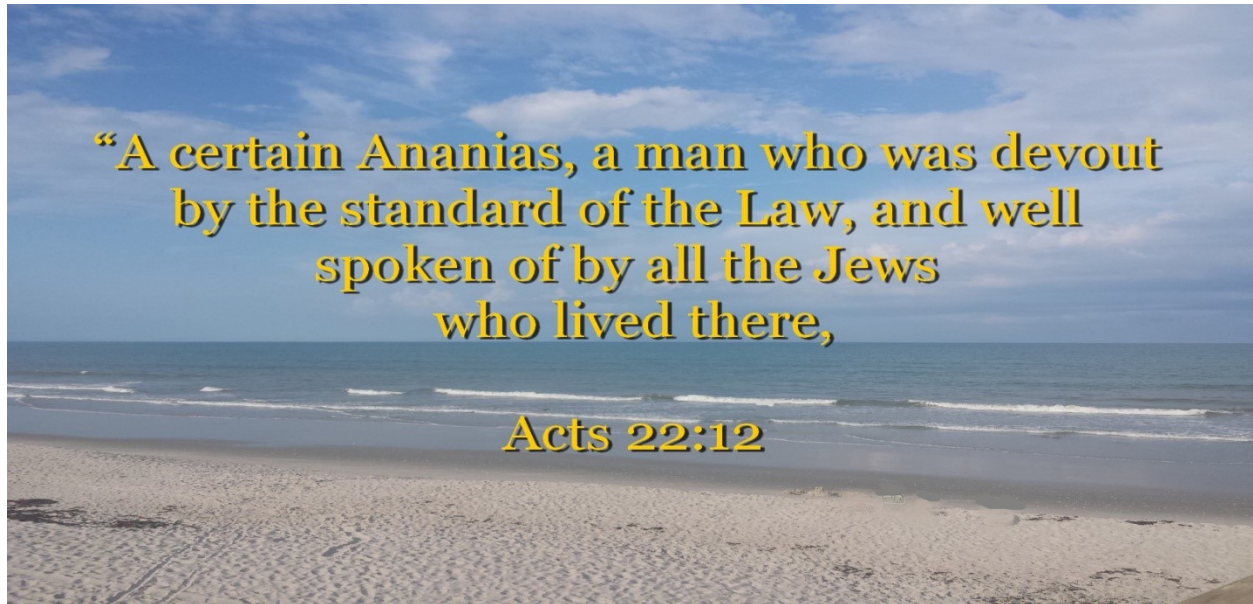
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the blindness of Paul lifted by the power of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Paul saw for the first time in his life on the Damascus Road when he was blinded by the noontime light?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 793

Ananias Today



Who did Paul meet in Damascus? Paul met Ananias.

Paul described Ananias as a man who was devout by the standard of the Law. He was well spoken of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus. When the Lord first revealed to Ananias that he should speak to Paul, Ananias had serious misgivings because he knew that Paul had attacked many saints in Jerusalem. Ananias maintained a good testimony with the Jews as a devout man under the standard of the Law, but he was also a follower of the Way and therefore a potential target of Paul for persecution.

By describing Ananias as a devout man under the Law, Paul built another link with the audience before him as he stood on the stairs in Jerusalem. Paul showed that Ananias was a very devout Jew, just like the people standing below him in the crowd. Both Ananias and the crowd sought to be devout under the standard of the Law.

By the standard of the Law, however, no flesh would be justified. Based upon the misgivings Ananias had expressed about talking to Paul, we know that Ananias was already a follower of the Way. Therefore, Jesus had chosen

him to help Paul upon his arrival in Damascus. Paul showed to the angry mob below that a man like Ananias could be a follower of the Way and still be devout by the standard of the Law.

Paul had woven his testimony and conversion on the Damascus Road into the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He showed how salvation becomes a personal meeting with the Lord Jesus Christ by faith. We receive Jesus as Savior and become a new person in Christ.

Devout

1. **Ananias**. What kind of reputation did Ananias have? Ananias had a very good reputation.

2. **Devout**. He was known as a devout man.

3. **Law**. The standard used to measure Ananias was his devotion to the Law.

4. **Well**. People spoke well of Ananias.

5. **Jews**. In particular, the Jews at Damascus held Ananias in high regard for his devotion to the Law.

6. **Who**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that God used Ananias, a devout Jew in Damascus and a follower of the Way, to help Paul end his blindness.

7. **Lived**. We rejoice today because all the people who lived in Damascus spoke well of Ananias and his devotion to the Law.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Ananias of Damascus as a devoted follower of the Law.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God could use Ananias to carry the word to Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He uses a wide variety of people to help believers walk with God.**

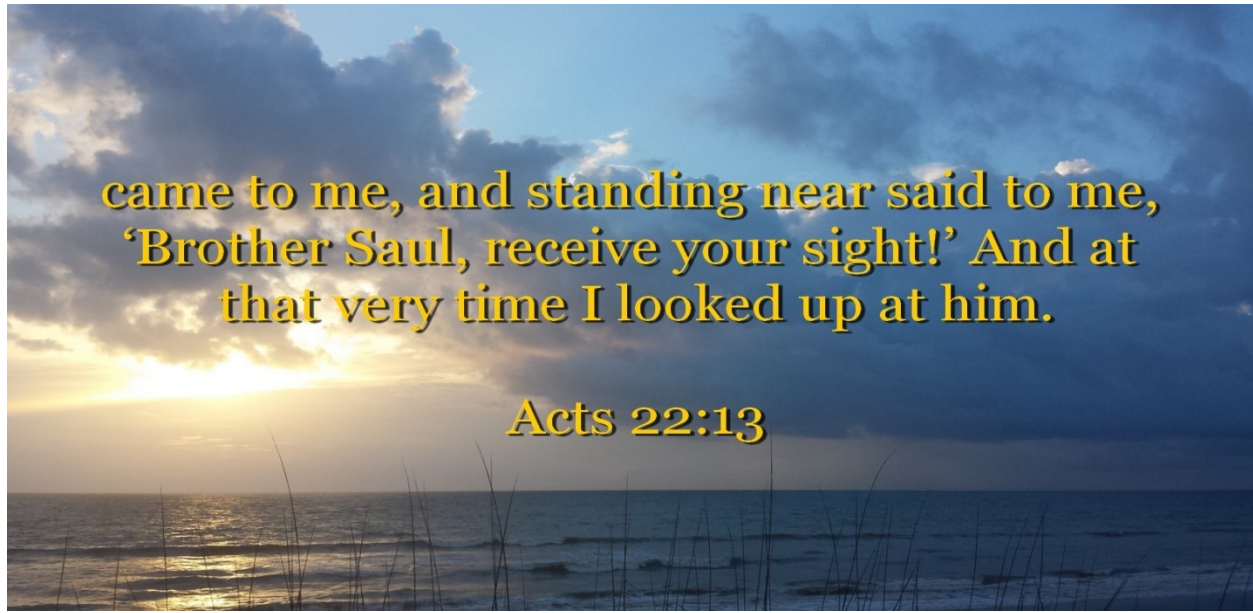
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Ananias who obeyed God and delivered the message to Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the people in your life who helped you know what God wanted you to do?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 794

Came Today



How did Paul receive his sight in Damascus? Ananias came to him and said, “Brother Saul, receive your sight!”

Paul had been blinded by the light on the Damascus Road. His traveling companions had to lead him by the hand into Damascus. Jesus had promised Paul that in Damascus he would learn all that he was appointed to do.

When Paul arrived in Damascus, Ananias came up to him and said, “Brother Saul, receive your sight!” The power of Jesus Christ worked through Ananias and Paul saw immediately. At that very moment, Paul looked up to Ananias. Paul had regained his physical sight, and now saw clearly with both his physical eyes and spiritual eyes.

As Paul addressed the angry mob below him in Jerusalem, Paul provided another point of commonality with the crowd. He showed how a devout man like Ananias could speak the words and Paul would regain his sight. Jesus healed many people in different ways, but here He just spoke the word through Ananias and Paul saw again.

Receive

1. **Came**. What happened when Ananias came to Paul? As Ananias was standing near Paul, Ananias uttered some very significant words to Paul.
2. **Standing**. Paul emphasized that Ananias was standing near him.
3. **Brother**. Ananias addressed Paul as brother.
4. **Receive**. Ananias commanded Paul to receive his sight.
5. **Sight**. Paul immediately received his sight, just as Ananias had said.
6. **Looked**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul, with both his physical eyes and his spiritual eyes opened, looked up and saw Ananias.
7. **Him**. We rejoice today because when Paul looked up and saw Ananias, Paul looked at him for the first time through the eyes of a follower of the Way.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Ananias calling Paul “brother”.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the day that our eyes were opened for the first time by Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the people in our life who helped open our eyes to Jesus Christ.**

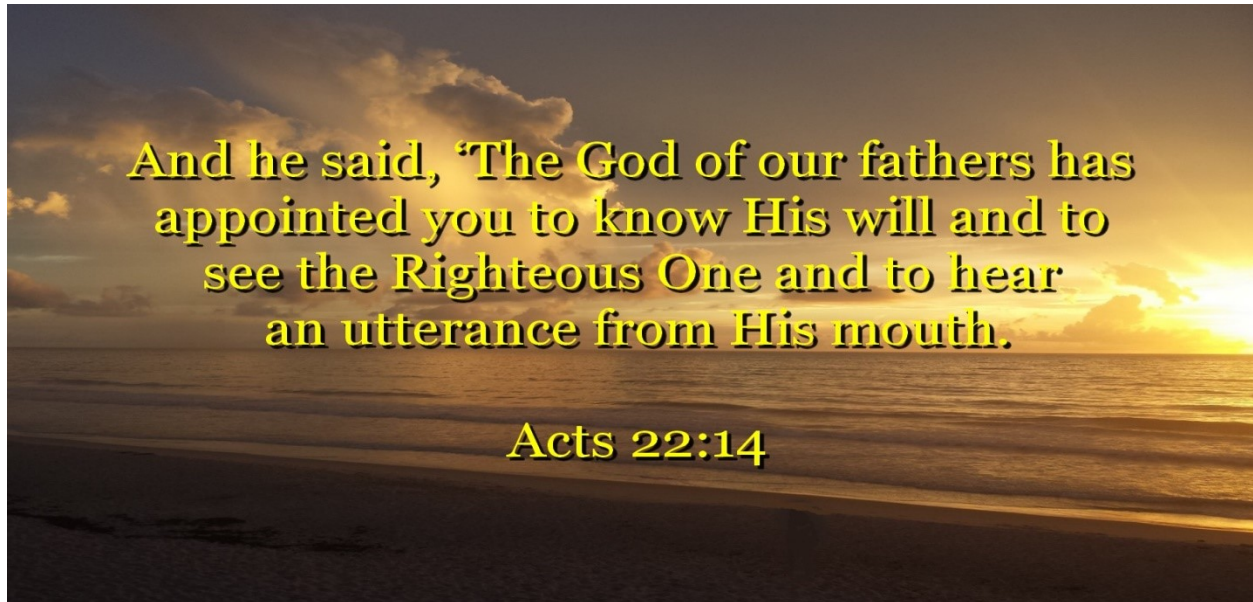
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Ananias helping Paul regain his sight. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the people in your life who helped you see Jesus for the first time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 795

Know Today



And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth.'

Acts 22:14

What did Ananias tell Paul about his future? Ananias told Paul about what the God of our fathers had in store for Paul's ministry.

Ananias said that the God of our fathers has appointed Paul to know His will. Of course, that seemed so likely on the day that Paul left Jerusalem heading to Damascus. Paul was one of the chief persecutors of the church, viciously opposed to Jesus Christ. Even so by the great mercy and grace of God, Paul met Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus.

As Paul approached Damascus about noontime, a great light from heaven flashed around him and he heard the voice of Jesus. This was the first revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ to Paul, but more were coming. Paul would spend time learning directly from Jesus the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which he preached among the Gentiles and Jews.

Ananias also told Paul that he would see the Righteous One. In fact, through his spiritual eyes on the Damascus Road, Paul had already seen Jesus in a sense. Likewise, Ananias told Paul that he would hear an utterance from His mouth. Those words also were fulfilled on the Damascus Road

when he heard Jesus talking to him, but Paul would hear more from Jesus too.

The Righteous One

1. **God**. What did Ananias tell Paul? Ananias told Paul about the great things that God had in store for him.

2. **Fathers**. Ananias started by saying “the God of our fathers”, indicating that Ananias understood the God of Israel had chosen Paul.

3. **Appointed**. He continued by telling Paul that the God of our fathers wanted Paul to know His will.

4. **You**. Ananias said that you will know His will, referring to Paul and the bright future of knowledge he had in front of him.

5. **Will**. Paul entered Damascus wanting to know what God wanted him to do, but Ananias told him that he would know the will of God.

6. **Righteous**. Living holy in the family of God means that God promised Paul that he would see the Righteous One.

7. **Utterance**. We rejoice today because God appointed Paul to hear an utterance from the mouth of the Righteous One.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul was appointed to know the will of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul was promised that he would see the Righteous One.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul heard the utterance from the mouth of the Righteous One.**

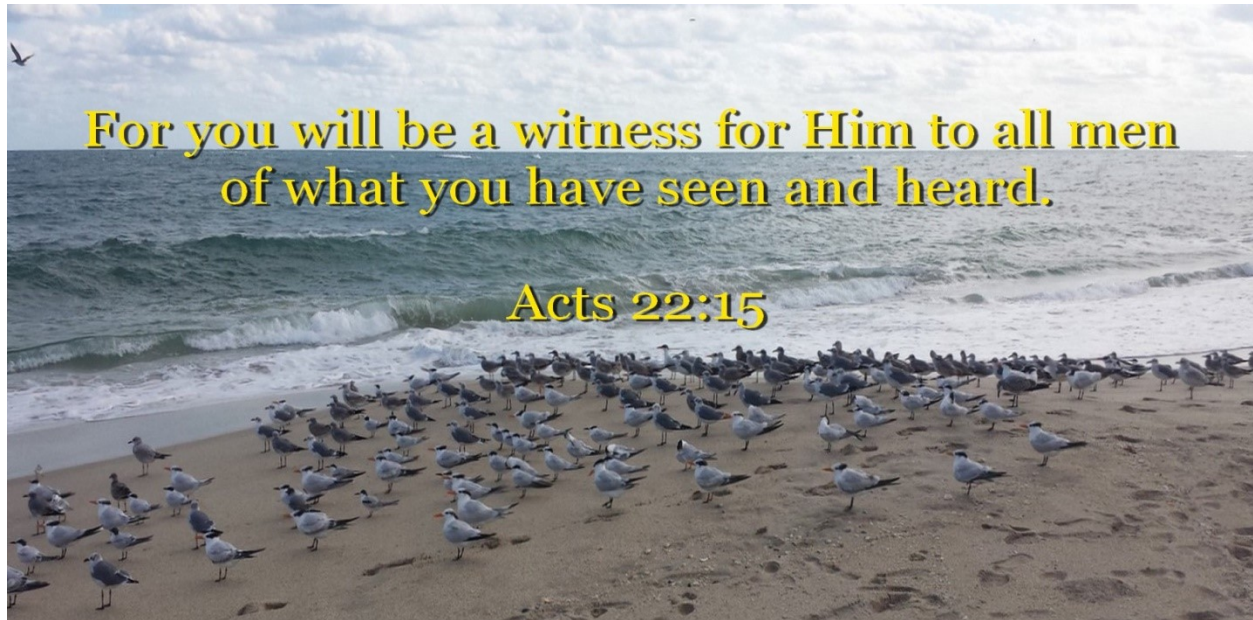
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by seeking in our lives to know the will of God and to listen to the voice of God as He speaks to us through the Bible. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He recorded the utterance from the Righteous One for us to read today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 796

Witness Today



What did God want Paul to do? God wanted Paul to be a witness for Him to all men.

Ananias of Damascus delivered a message to Paul from God. Paul had seen the bright light at noontime on the Damascus Road. He had heard Jesus talking to him about persecuting the church. Then he was blinded and had to be led by the hand into Damascus where he met Ananias.

Ananias delivered a message to Paul about what he must do. God used Ananias to communicate to Paul about his future. Paul was going to be a witness for God to all men. Paul would speak about the things that he had seen and heard on the Damascus Road and elsewhere.

As Paul stood on the stairs of the barracks in Jerusalem addressing the hostile mob below, Paul was fulfilling that prophecy from God. Paul was telling that crowd about the things that he had heard and seen, just as Ananias had told him. Paul used his personal testimony in Jerusalem to present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the people below him who had just tried to kill him as one angry mob.

You

1. **For**. To whom would Paul bear witness? Ananias told Paul that God intended for him to bear witness to all men.

2. **You**. Ananias had helped Paul regain his sight through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ and then said you will be a witness.

3. **Witness**. As a witness of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, Paul could present a powerful testimony of his conversion to other Jews and Gentiles.

4. **All**. God intended for Paul to have a large scope to his ministry which would include all men.

5. **Men**. The testimony to all men by Paul continues to this day because he wrote many letters contained in the New Testament.

6. **Seen**. Living holy in the family of God means that God chose Paul to be a witness of the things that he had seen firsthand regarding the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Heard**. We rejoice today because Paul had not only seen great things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, but had also heard His voice directly on the Damascus Road.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God commissioned Paul to be His witness to all men.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that God had commissioned Paul to testify about the things that he had seen and heard concerning God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul took that testimony all over the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.**

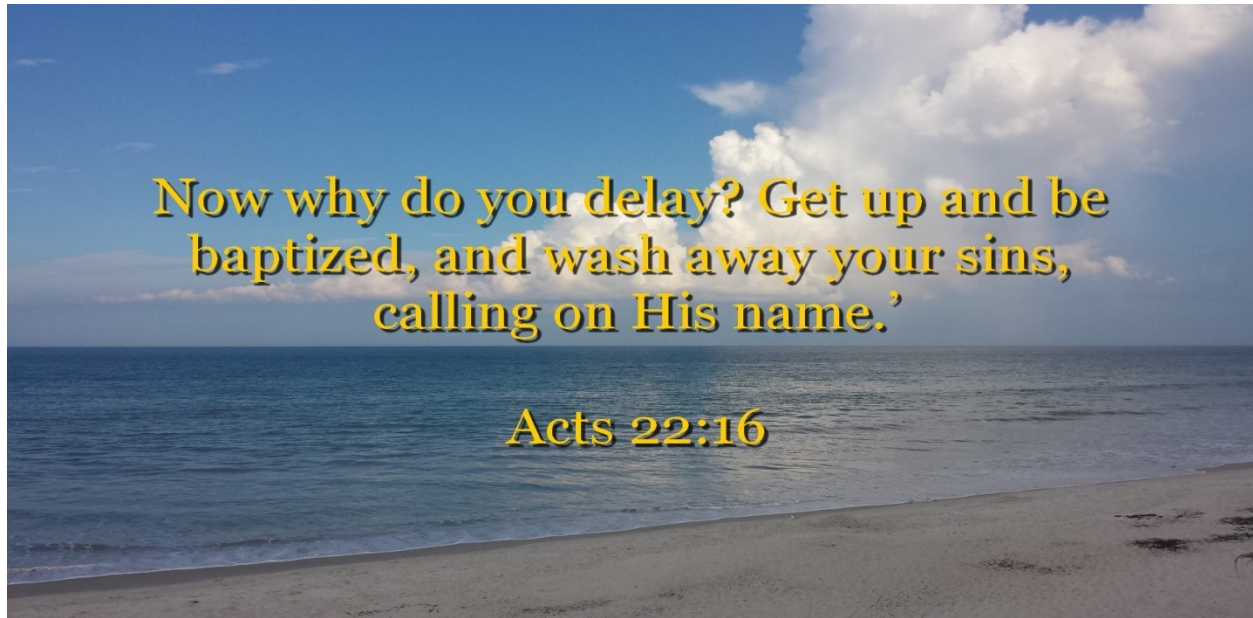
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by continuing to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and using our personal testimony of the things that we have seen and heard about God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul's words on the stairs of Jerusalem as he recounted his salvation experience?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 797

Get up Today



What else did Ananias tell Paul? Ananias told him to get up and be baptized.

Ananias told Paul to be baptized. Some people today claim that baptism washes away your sins. Yet, nowhere in the Scriptures does God teach anything like that. While Ananias talked about washing away your sins, that phrase was linked to calling on His Name. From Noah forward, people have called upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Only people who have saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ should be baptized. Faith precedes baptism. Salvation precedes baptism. Therefore, Ananias was telling Paul, who had already believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, to be baptized as he was calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Paul stood on the stairs of the barracks in Jerusalem, he made it very plain what people in that crowd should do to receive eternal life. They too must come to call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Baptized

1. **Why**. What did Ananias say to Paul? Ananias asked Paul why delay?
2. **Delay**. Ananias did not want Paul to delay in getting baptized.
3. **Get**. He said to Paul to get up right away and be baptized.
4. **Baptized**. Paul was baptized and had washed away his sins by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. **Wash**. Sins can never be washed away by the waters of baptism, because only faith in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ for salvation brings new life.
6. **Sins**. Living holy in the family of God means that calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation washes away sins.
7. **Calling**. We rejoice today because Paul was calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and so received the free gift of salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by not delaying to baptize converts.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Ananias who did not shrink back from Paul, the previous persecutor of the church.**


Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging people to be baptized, calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the words of Ananias to Paul?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 798

Returned Today



**“It happened when I returned to Jerusalem
and was praying in the temple, that
I fell into a trance,**

Acts 22:17

What happened to Paul when he returned to Jerusalem? Paul fell into a trance while praying in the Temple.

Paul recounted his conversion on the Damascus Road to the angry mob standing below him. The mob had already beaten Paul when the Roman soldiers showed up and took custody of Paul. Paul received permission from the Roman commander to address the mob as Paul stood on the stairs of the barracks in Jerusalem.

Paul used his personal testimony to show the angry mob his Jewish roots and his spectacular conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Paul reviewed how he saw a bright light at noontime on the Damascus Road. He had already received letters from the chief priests and others in Jerusalem to arrest as many followers of the Way as he could find in Damascus and bring them back to prison in Jerusalem.

Instead of going to Damascus as a persecutor of the church, God saved Paul from his sins on the Damascus Road. Jesus confronted Paul verbally

and asked him why he was persecuting the church. Jesus explained that persecuting the church was equivalent to persecuting Jesus Himself.

Temple

1. **Returned**. What happened when Paul returned to Jerusalem? Paul fell into a trance in the Temple.

2. **Jerusalem**. Paul came back to Jerusalem after leaving Damascus.

3. **Praying**. He went to the Temple and was praying there.

4. **Temple**. As a devout Jew, Paul had spent many hours in the Temple at Jerusalem.

5. **I**. Paul was recounting his story of conversion and traveled to Jerusalem to the angry mob standing before him in Jerusalem.

6. **Fell**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul fell into a trance while praying in the Temple in Jerusalem.

7. **Trance**. We rejoice today because Paul's trance in Jerusalem opened the line of communication with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul traveling back to Jerusalem and going into the Temple.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus for communicating with Paul through a trance in the Temple.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He communicates with people by many different methods in the Bible.**

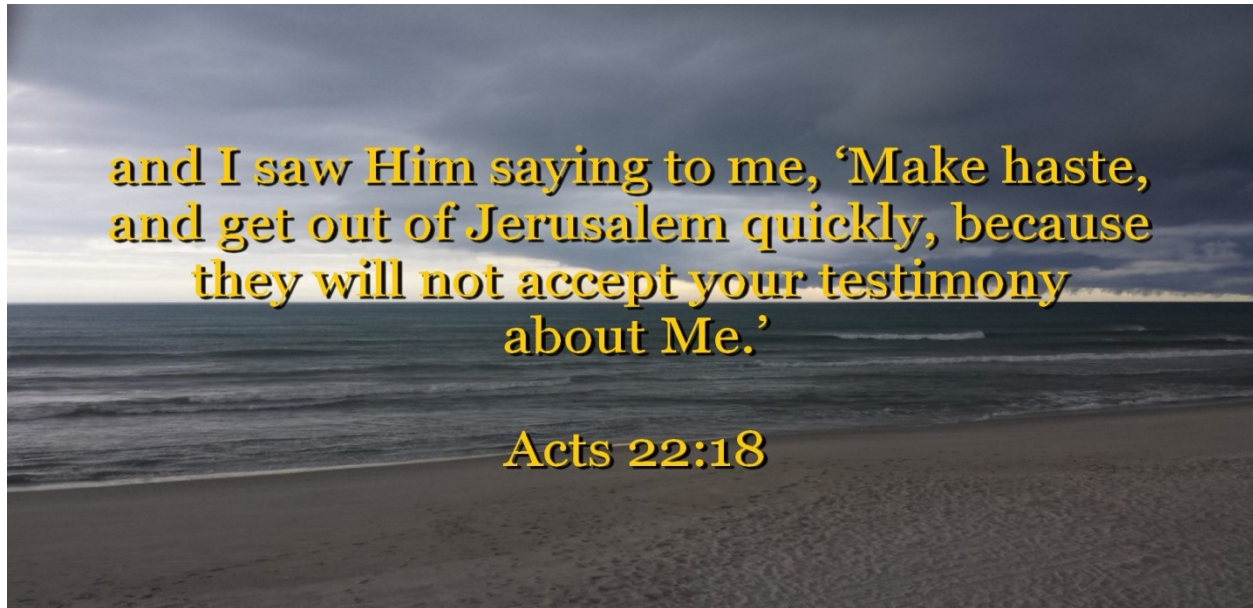
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul falling into a trance while praying in the Temple at Jerusalem. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to God when He communicates with you through the Scriptures?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 799

Haste Today



What did Jesus say to Paul during the trance in Jerusalem? Jesus warned Paul to get out of Jerusalem quickly.

Jesus explained to Paul in that trance in the Temple to make haste and get out of Jerusalem. As God, Jesus knew all things. He knew the future and the plans of the Jews to kill Paul.

As Paul stood on the stairs in Jerusalem addressing the angry mob, he drew a clear parallel between what had happened many years previously and what was happening again to him today. The Jews in Jerusalem had repeatedly tried to kill Paul because of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Once again, the angry mob was ready to kill Paul and had already beaten him before the Roman soldiers took custody of him.

Jesus and Paul had a close relationship. Jesus had already ascended to heaven, but maintained spiritual communications with Paul. As Paul fell into a trance while praying in the Temple in Jerusalem, the Lord Jesus Christ warned him to get out of Jerusalem immediately. Jesus also said that the

people in Jerusalem would not accept Paul's testimony about the Lord Jesus Christ. History was repeating itself.

Get Out

1. **I**. What did Paul see in the Temple? He saw Jesus talking to him.
2. **Haste**. Jesus told Paul to make haste.
3. **Get**. He warned Paul to get out of Jerusalem immediately.
4. **Jerusalem**. Paul thought that the people of Jerusalem would be moved by his testimony of conversion.
5. **Not**. Jesus said that was not the case.
6. **Accept**. Living holy in the family of God means that the people of Jerusalem would not accept the testimony of Paul and his miraculous conversion to Jesus Christ as Savior.
7. **Testimony**. We rejoice today because some people did accept that testimony, but not many of the Jews in Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Lord Jesus talking with Paul in the Temple to save his life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by heeding the words of Jesus delivered to us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He personally intervened in Paul's life as he fell into a trance in the Temple.**

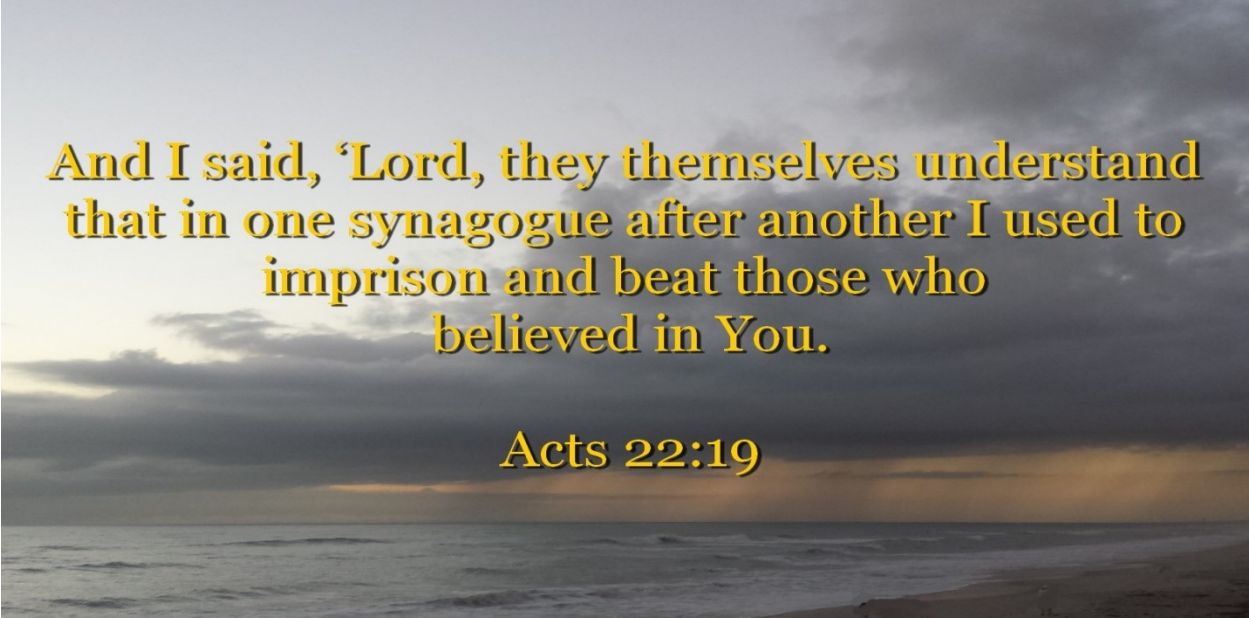
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His care and safeguarding His children. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul in the Temple looking upon Jesus as He warned Paul to get out of Jerusalem?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 800

Understand Today



And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You.

Acts 22:19

What did Paul say back to the Lord Jesus Christ during the trance? Paul said that he used to go from one synagogue to another imprisoning and beating the people who believed in Jesus.

Paul described for the angry mob what happened in this Temple previously. Paul had fallen into a trance in the Temple and Jesus talked to him. Jesus had warned Paul to get out of Jerusalem immediately because they would not accept the testimony of Paul about Jesus. Paul then replied to Jesus that surely the Jews would remember that Paul himself had gone from synagogue to synagogue to imprison them beat the people who were followers of the Way.

Paul clearly understood as he addressed the angry mob before him that they wanted to continue the persecution started by the Jews previously. Just as Jesus had warned Paul to leave the city immediately, the Holy Spirit through various people had warned Paul that bonds and afflictions awaited Paul in Jerusalem when he returned there. Sure enough, Paul was now standing in front of the angry mob with two chains on him, placed there by

the Roman soldiers. History was still repeating itself, all according to the plans of God.

Imprison

1. **Lord**. What did Paul say to the Lord? Paul said that the Jews themselves must remember that he mistreated Christians.

2. **They**. Paul thought, surely, they would understand what Paul had experienced on the Damascus Road.

3. **Understand**. Paul had spent time with the people of Jerusalem acting as the chief persecutor of the Way.

4. **Synagogue**. Paul had gone from synagogue to synagogue looking for followers of Jesus Christ.

5. **Imprison**. When he found them, he would imprison them for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Beat**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul also used to beat people solely because they were followers of the Way.

7. **Believed**. We rejoice today because some people believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and Paul himself came to be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for His manifold blessings of salvation and deliverance.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving God for the ways He protects His children.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's conversion and subsequent mistreatment by his own countrymen in Jerusalem.**

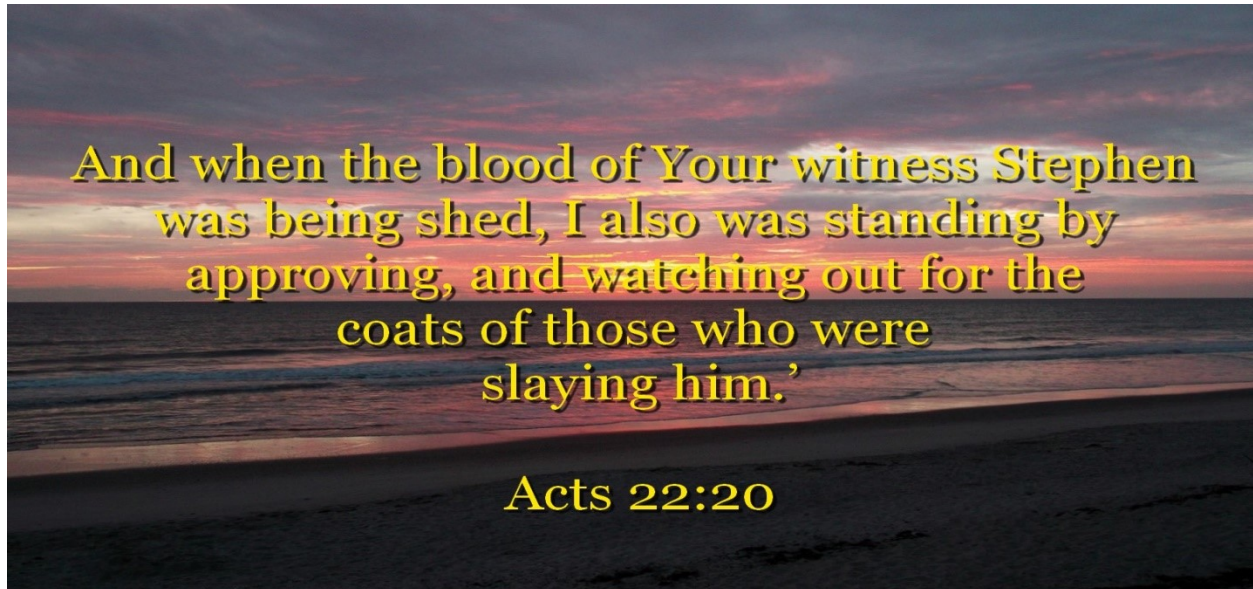
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus because He loves us even when our own countrymen reject us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following Jesus and heeding His words no matter what happens?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 801

Approving Today



What did Paul say to the crowd about Stephen? Paul recounted the story of the stoning of Stephen.

Paul described the blood of Your witness Stephen. Paul said that Stephen was a witness of Jesus and His resurrection. While the Jews stoned Stephen to death, Paul said he was standing by approving and watching out for the coats of those who were killing him.

Paul had explained his conversion on the Damascus Road and his subsequent meeting with Ananias of Damascus. God had restored the sight of Paul and commissioned him to testify about what he had seen and heard about Jesus the Messiah.

Paul was saying all these things to a mob who had just beaten him. The Roman soldiers arrived, placed Paul into chains, and carried him away to the barracks. The angry crowd in Jerusalem was in great confusion and so the soldiers came to impose order.

Paul obtained permission from the Roman commander to address the Jews. He stood on the stairs of the barracks and talked to the crowd. He told them about his testimony and conversion.

Watching

1. **When**. What happened when Stephen was stoned? Paul said he stood by watching the death of Stephen.
2. **Blood**. Paul described Stephen as Your witness, referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. The angry Jewish mob stoned Stephen and shed his blood.
3. **Stephen**. Paul's view of what happened with Stephen had changed markedly after Paul's conversion.
4. **Shed**. Just like the angry mob before Paul, so also the angry mob stoned Stephen and shed his blood.
5. **Approving**. As the angry mob shed the blood of Stephen, Paul stood by approving.
6. **Coats**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul recounted how he stood by approving and watched the coats of the Jews stoning Stephen.
7. **Slaying**. We rejoice today because Stephen gladly gave his life and testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ and Paul recounted the Jews slaying Stephen with his approval to show the angry mob that his life had changed because of Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen who gave his life for the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul approved the stoning of Stephen, but later used that event to show how he had converted to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for turning people away from their evil by bringing them into His marvelous light.**

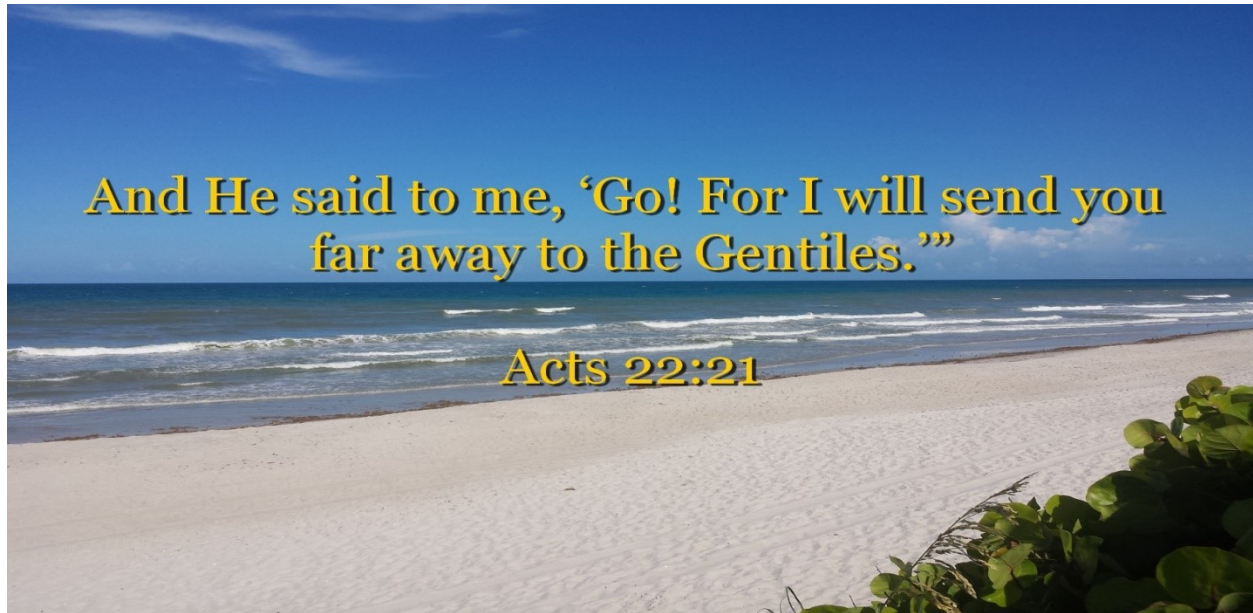
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that the things we did before salvation have been completely forgiven by God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the absolute forgiveness of God for the horrible things we have all done at one time or another?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 802

Go Today



What did Paul say next after the story about Stephen being stoned? God told Paul to go because God was sending him to the Gentiles.

At this point Paul's message changed dramatically. Up until this point he had recounted his upbringing in Jerusalem and training under Gamaliel and his persecution of the church. Paul was one of the Jews of Jerusalem, just like the Jews of Jerusalem who had just beaten him.

Paul turned to his ministry to the Gentiles. Because he was speaking to a hostile and angry Jewish crowd gathered in Jerusalem, he had begun to confirm their suspicions. Jews did not associate with Gentiles. Therefore, when Paul said that God sent him to the Gentiles, he was inflaming the Jews before him, and they were already angry to the point of riot.

Yet, Paul could do nothing other. Paul was standing on the stairs proclaiming his conversion to the Jews because he wanted them to hear about the great love of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel and Son of David. Paul fully understood the consequences of his message. Paul knew

about the afflictions and bonds awaiting them in Jerusalem before he ever showed up there.

Gentiles

1. **He**. What did Jesus say to Paul about traveling? Jesus told Paul that He was going to send Paul far away.

2. **Said**. Jesus said those words about traveling after the stoning of Stephen and after the conversion of Paul.

3. **Go**. Where was Jesus going to send Paul? Jesus was sending Paul far away.

4. **For**. Jesus Himself commissioned Paul to go far away doing the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Send**. Jesus said I send you Paul.

6. **Far**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus commissioned Paul to take the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to lands far away from Jerusalem.

7. **Gentiles**. We rejoice today because God sent Paul far away to the Gentiles in Asia and in Europe and all the rest of the world by extension of his ministry.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by hearing the words of Jesus sending us to our own individual mission fields.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the personal attention Jesus gives to each one of us, directing our lives daily by His loving power.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing that God sends some of us far away and He also keeps some of us near, but we share the work of daily ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.**

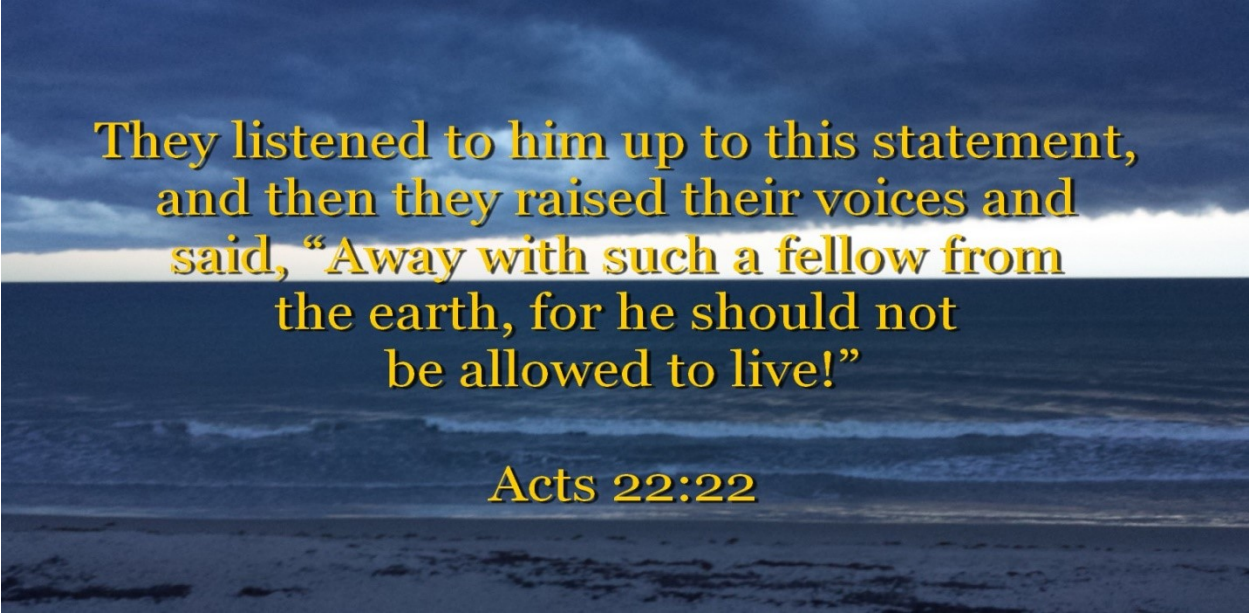
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that ministers near and far all proclaim the same Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and make disciples every day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by seeking to make new disciples today as you use your spiritual gifts?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 803

Listened Today



They listened to him up to this statement,
and then they raised their voices and
said, “Away with such a fellow from
the earth, for he should not
be allowed to live!”

Acts 22:22

What happened with the crowd when Paul mentioned going to the Gentiles? The crowd demanded with loud voices that Paul be killed.

When Paul began his message from the stairs, a hush fell over the crowd. They had listened to him up to the point where he said God sent him to the Gentiles. Like throwing gas on a fire, those words ignited the Jews. With angry voices they shouted to do away with Paul from the earth. They did not want him to live another moment.

Paul understood that the Jews wanted nothing to do with the Gentiles. Even inside the church, many people who had come to faith in Jesus still struggled with the concept of Gentiles being fellow heirs of the grace of God and fellow members of the body of Christ. Peter played an instrumental role in helping the Jews in Jerusalem accept the conversion of the Gentiles from Caesarea.

Paul was not one to be hypocritical. What he proclaimed to the nations about the Lord Jesus Christ, so also he proclaimed the same Gospel of Salvation in Jerusalem. Like the Jews called for the crucifixion of Jesus, so

also they now called for the doing away with Paul so that he would be removed from the Earth.

Voices

1. **They**. What happened when Paul said God sent him to the Gentiles? The crowd reignited with white-hot fury.

2. **Listened**. Up until that point, the crowd had been listening carefully to Paul.

3. **Statement**. With one statement about God sending him to the Gentiles, the crowd immediately revolted.

4. **Raised**. They raised their voices to express their animosity.

5. **Voices**. Thinking they were zealous for God, the crowd spoke in loud voices expressing their hot displeasure with Paul.

6. **Away**. Living holy in the family of God means that when the crowds cried out, “Away with Paul”, another crowd in Jerusalem had said the same words about the Lord Jesus Christ and then crucified Him.

7. **Live**. We rejoice today because Paul believed that for him to live was Christ and to die, but gain.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul telling the Jews that God sent him to the Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that strong emotions flare up in many people when they hear things they do not like about God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for giving Paul the courage and endurance to tell the truth to the angry mob.**

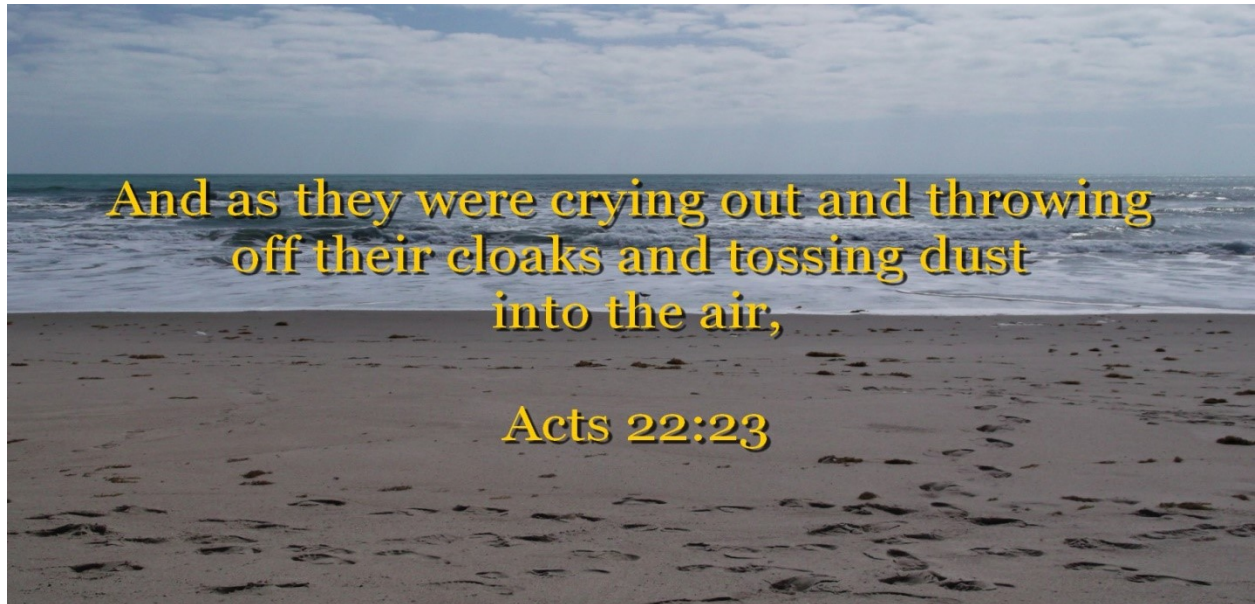
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul was faithful to go far away and bring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going where the Lord Jesus Christ sends you to do daily ministry for Him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 804

Tossing Today



What were the Jews doing to express their anger? They were crying out and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air.

Paul had hit a nerve in the crowd when he spoke about the Gentiles. The whole riot started when some Jews from Asia saw Paul in the Temple and supposed that he had brought a Gentile into the Temple. Of course Paul had done no such thing. The Jews from Asia, however, would do anything to kill Paul.

They immediately started a rumor and called out for help from the Jews. They said that Paul defiled the Temple and disrespected Moses and the Temple. They charged Paul with teaching the Gentiles to ignore the Law of Moses and the traditions of the Jews.

Paul could not avoid his message about the Gentiles. With the crowd reigniting before him, Paul knew that trouble was coming. Because of the furor of the crowd, the Roman soldiers would have to take further action to protect Paul from the crowd. The Jews had briefly regained their composure

listening the Paul, but the words about the Gentiles reignited their furor in an instant. The crowd once again seethed with unbridled anger.

Dust

1. **They**. How did the crowd show their hostility? They threw a fit.
2. **Crying**. They began crying out loudly.
3. **Throwing**. They were throwing off their cloaks.
4. **Cloaks**. They did not rip their cloaks, but they did throw them off.
5. **Tossing**. They were also tossing dust into the air.
6. **Dust**. Living holy in the family of God means that the crowd threw the dust into the air as a symbol of great confusion and displeasure over what Paul had said about being sent to the Gentiles.
7. **Air**. We rejoice today because Paul remained faithful to the proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, even as the crowd threw off their cloaks and threw dust into the air.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting that some crowds will be very angry when missionaries present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the tenacity of Paul standing on the stairs in Jerusalem before the mob.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending men like Paul to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles in faraway places.**

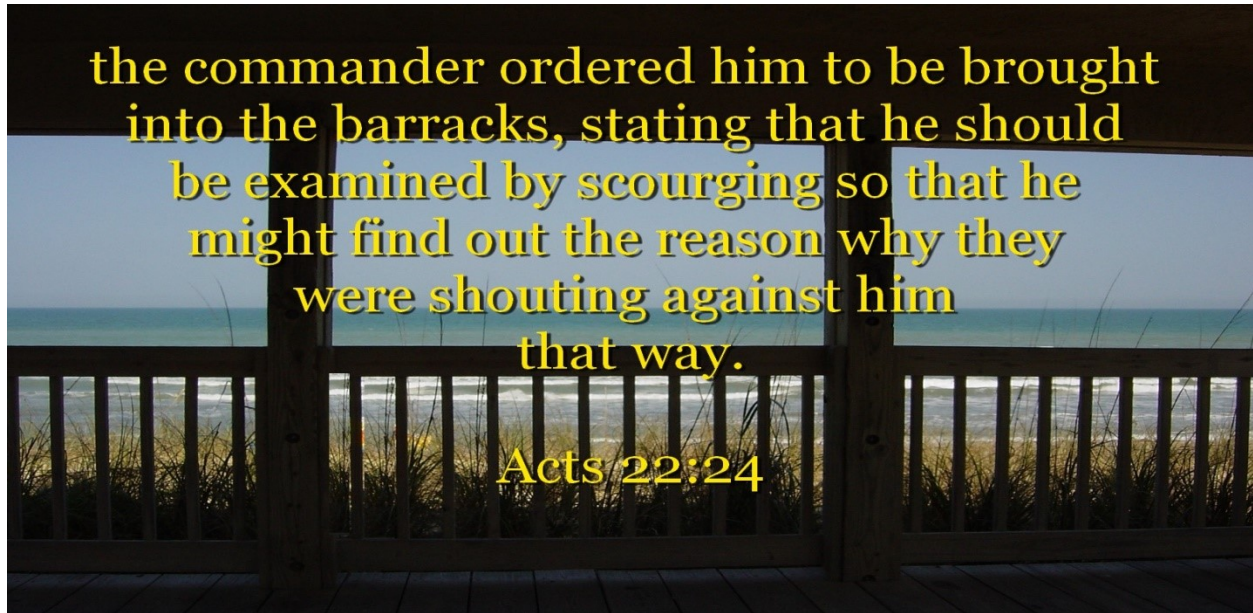
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the strength of faith in men like Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that some people will have a very negative reaction to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 805

Ordered Today



What did the commander order? The Roman commander ordered Paul to be brought into the barracks.

After the Roman commander rescued Paul from the hands of the mob, he ordered that Paul be bound with two chains and brought to the barracks. The Roman commander wanted to find out what was going on, but learned nothing from the crowd because they were shouting different things. He originally brought Paul back to the barracks to ascertain the truth from Paul.

The Roman commander ordered the soldiers to examine Paul by scourging. That means he would be whipped until he provided the answers the Roman soldiers wanted to hear. The Roman commander wanted to know why the people down below were shouting so violently against Paul.

Paul had already told the Roman commander that he was a citizen of Tarsus, no insignificant city in the Roman Empire. The Roman commander had not yet understood that Paul was actually a Roman citizen, entitled to the full protection of Roman law concerning a trial before punishment could

be imposed. Scourging was not allowed without first a finding of guilt, provided you are dealing with a Roman citizen.

Scourging

1. **Commander**. When the crowd erupted again, what did the commander do? He ordered Paul brought into the barracks.

2. **Ordered**. The Roman commander saw the crowd erupting again and knew that quick action was in order.

3. **Barracks**. When Paul was first chained and taken into custody, the Roman commander was taking him to the barracks

4. **Examined**. The Roman commander intended to have Paul examined carefully to find out why the Jews were so angry with him.

5. **Scourging**. The Roman commander ordered that Paul be examined by scourging (whipping).

6. **Reason**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the Roman commander wanted to find out the reason why the Jewish mob was so angry with Paul.

7. **Shouting**. We rejoice today because the crowd was shouting in anger and causing a great tumult, but Paul had the opportunity to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the crowd, combined with his personal testimony.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angry crowd in Jerusalem seeking to kill Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul used his legal rights at just the right time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for men who did not back down from angry mobs, but continued to speak about Jesus Christ to them.**

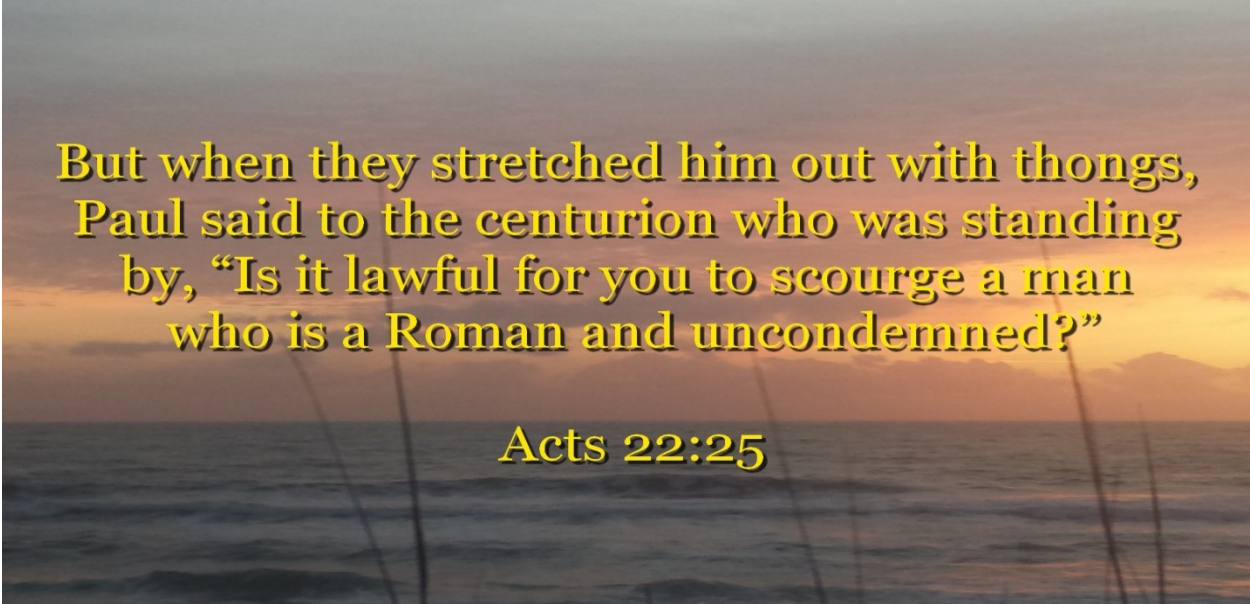
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His plans to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all the earth by using men who will train others also to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the courage of Paul to stand on the stairs and tell the Jews all about his conversion and ministry in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 806

Scourge Today



But when they stretched him out with thongs,
Paul said to the centurion who was standing
by, “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man
who is a Roman and uncondemned?”

Acts 22:25

What did Paul say to the centurion? Paul asked about lawful behavior.

A large mob in Jerusalem had attacked Paul. The whole city was in confusion and the Roman commander took custody of Paul and bound him with two chains. The soldiers carried Paul back to the barracks for interrogation. The Roman commander wanted to find out why the crowd was so mad at Paul.

As Paul stood on the stairs of the barracks, Paul addressed the mob below with the permission of the Roman commander. Paul described his upbringing in Jerusalem and training under Gamaliel. Then he described how he persecuted the Christian church. One day, however, Paul met Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road. His life changed in an instant. When Paul mentioned that God sent him far way to the Gentiles, the crowd reignited in anger against Paul.

The Roman commander then ordered that Paul be interrogated by scourging. The Roman commander tried to ascertain the truth from the crowd, but could not get a straight answer. Therefore, he ordered the

centurion to stretch out Paul with thongs and begin the interrogation with scourging. At that point, Paul asked the centurion if it was lawful to scourge a Roman citizen who was uncondemned.

Uncondemned

1. **Stretched**. What did Paul say when he was stretched out? He asked the centurion if it was lawful to scourge an uncondemned Roman.
2. **Paul**. Paul waited to tell the soldiers that he was a Roman citizen.
3. **Centurion**. Just as the scourging was supposed to begin, Paul asked the centurion standing by a simple question.
4. **Lawful**. Paul wanted to know about lawful practices.
5. **Scourge**. He specifically asked about scourging a Roman citizen.
6. **Roman**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul knew that Roman citizens had special rights under Roman law about trials before punishment.
7. **Uncondemned**. We rejoice today because Paul used the Roman law to his advantage by reminding the soldiers that he was a Roman citizen just before they began scourging him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by using the law to our advantage, when possible.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ for the deliverance He provides at just the right time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by disclosing important facts at just the right time, but not before.**

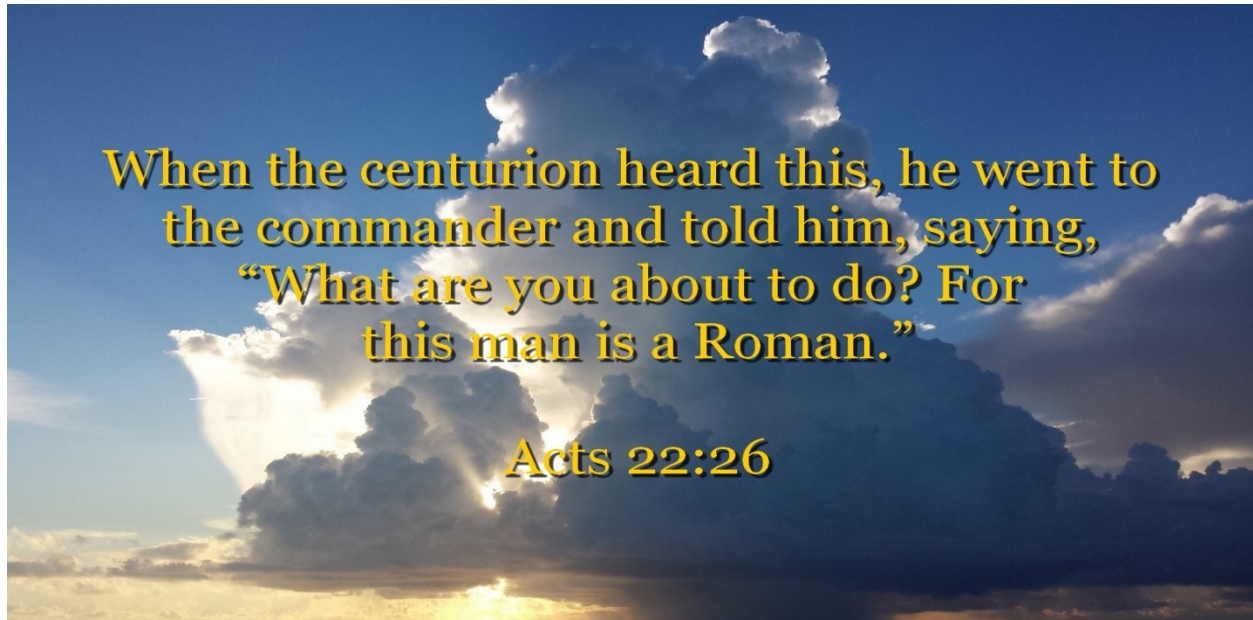
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul used his Roman citizenship to stop scourging before it began. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being careful to use your legal rights at just the right time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 807

Centurion Today



What did the centurion do once he heard that Paul was a Roman citizen? He reported that news to the Roman commander.

The Roman commander had ordered Paul to be examined by scourging. That practice included tying a man up with thongs to posts. The centurion had tied up Paul and stretched him out so that he could be whipped. The scourging would continue until the prisoner told the truth.

Once Paul was stretched out, he mentioned to the centurion standing nearby that he was a Roman citizen. He also questioned whether it was lawful to scourge a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned. Everyone knew the answer was it was unlawful and the Roman soldiers were about to make a terrible mistake.

The centurion then went to the Roman commander and asked him what was he was about to do. The centurion informed him that Paul was a Roman citizen. Such news would immediately trigger further inquiry from the Roman commander who still wanted to know why the mob was so mad at Paul.

Commander

1. **Centurion**. How did Paul's disclosure of citizenship affect the centurion? The centurion left immediately to find the Roman commander.
2. **Heard**. When the centurion heard about Paul's Roman citizenship, he took immediate action and stopped the scourging before it began.
3. **Went**. The centurion went to the Roman commander quickly.
4. **Commander**. He had a very simple question for the Roman commander.
5. **What**. He asked the Roman commander what he was about to do to Paul.
6. **Do**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember how the Roman soldiers became very concerned about what they had already done to Paul and what they should do next.
7. **Roman**. We rejoice today because Paul used Roman law to stop the scourging while he caused great fear in the Roman soldiers who had mistreated him under Roman law.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul stretched out with thongs seconds away from being scourged.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by learning from Paul how to use our legal rights.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the centurion stopped the scourging of Paul.**

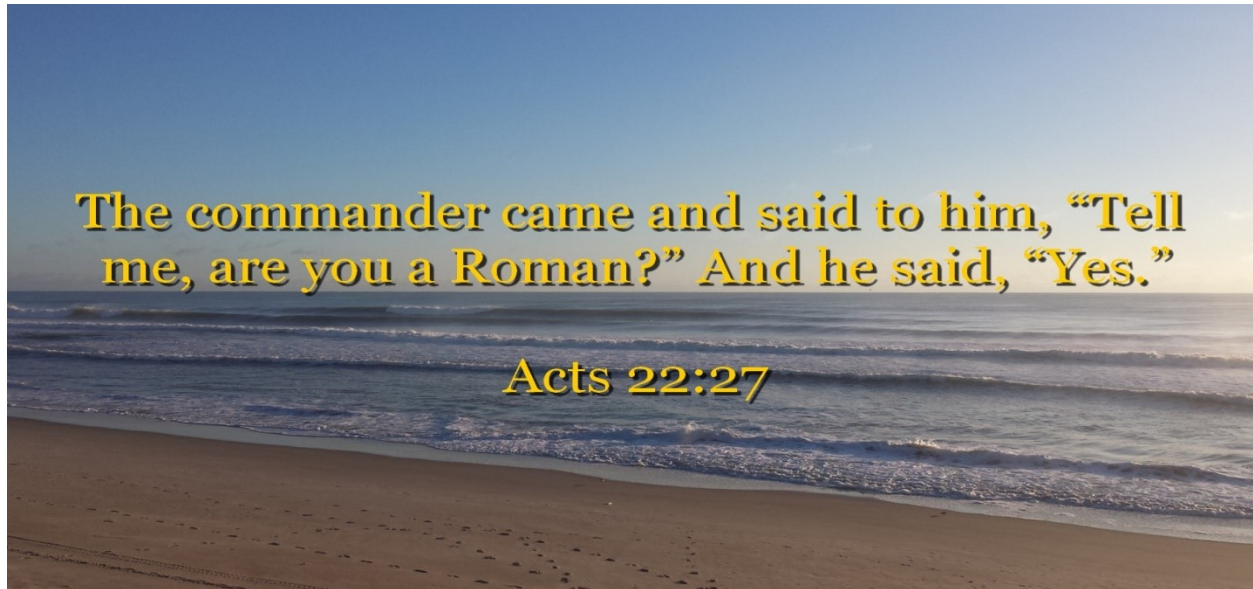
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for Roman law that helped Paul escape a brutal scourging. Will you live holy in the family of God today by applying legal principles to avoid unnecessary injuries?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 808

Tell Today



What did the Roman commander do after hearing the news that Paul was a Roman citizen? The Roman commander went to have a talk with Paul.

The Roman commander asked Paul if he was a Roman. Paul said yes. Paul knew his legal rights under Roman law. Paul had already told the Roman commander that he was a citizen of Tarsus, no insignificant city. The Roman commander did not inquire further of Paul, but continued on by chaining Paul and then ordering his scourging.

Paul at Philippi had used his legal citizenship to his advantage. The government officials in Philippi had beaten Paul and imprisoned Paul without trial. When they tried to release Paul quietly, Paul demanded that they lead him out of prison personally. Paul knew how to use his legal rights.

At Jerusalem Paul could have told the Roman soldiers at any point that he was a Roman citizen. When the Roman commander ordered Paul to be put in chains, Paul could have objected and declared his Roman citizenship. Instead, Paul kept quiet. Paul knew how to use his legal rights to advantage. When Paul did reveal his Roman citizenship, Paul intended to gain a hearing

with the Roman commander. The Roman commander still wanted to know why the Jews were so mad at Paul.

Roman

1. **Commander**. What did the Roman commander want to hear from Paul? He wanted to hear if Paul was a Roman citizen.
2. **Said**. The Roman commander said something very simple to Paul.
3. **Tell**. He asked Paul to tell him directly if he was a Roman citizen.
4. **Me**. The Roman commander was actually saying tell me about your Roman citizenship.
5. **Roman**. Being a Roman in the Roman Empire brought great benefits to anyone holding such citizenship.
6. **He**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul confessed that he was a Roman citizen and knew his legal rights.
7. **Yes**. We rejoice today because Paul's Roman citizenship made a difference to the Roman commander and the soldiers so that they released him right away.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by answering direct questions with a careful answer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by telling the truth so that we are not made a liar and diminish our testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by answering questions from government officials so that we may use our legal rights, when appropriate.**

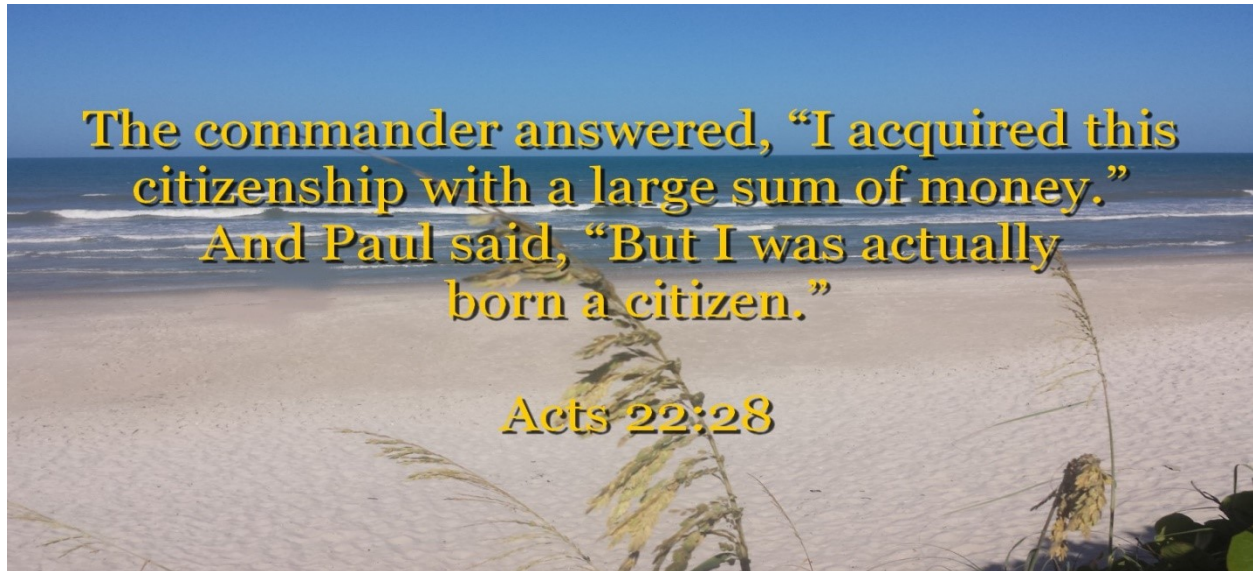
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the talk Paul had with the Roman commander about citizenship. Will you live holy in the family of God today by asserting your legal rights to the right person who is able to take action to help you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 809

Acquired Today



How did the Roman commander acquire his citizenship? The Roman commander acquired his citizenship with a large sum of money.

The Roman commander first met Paul in the middle of the mob. He immediately took Paul into custody and put two chains on him. As a good Roman soldier, the Roman commander should have known better than to put a Roman citizen in chains. The Roman commander wanted to find out why the mob was so mad at Paul. He was not able to learn anything worthwhile from the mob itself because the people were in great conflict and saying different things.

Having taken Paul in the custody, the Roman commander allowed Paul to address the mob. Paul stood on the stairs of the barracks and the crowd was listening up until the point he mentioned God sending him far away to the Gentiles. Then the mob exploded again in white-hot fury. The Roman commander took Paul away and directed his soldiers to examine Paul by scourging to learn the truth. As Paul was stretched out on the thongs about to be scourged, Paul asked the centurion standing nearby if he knew Paul was a Roman citizen. Then centurion immediately released Paul and went to the

Roman commander. He came and inquired of Paul about citizenship and Paul replied that he was a citizen. At that point, the Roman commander knew he had gotten into serious trouble under Roman law. The Roman commander said he purchased his citizenship with a large sum of money. Paul replied that he had been born a Roman citizen (in Tarsus of Cilicia).

Citizenship

1. **Commander**. What did the commander discuss with Paul? They discussed Roman citizenship.
2. **Came**. Having learned of Paul's Roman citizenship, the Roman commander came to see Paul.
3. **Acquired**. He told Paul that he acquired his citizenship.
4. **Citizenship**. In the Roman Empire, one could be born a citizen or one could buy citizenship.
5. **Large**. The Roman commander indicated that he bought the Roman citizenship for a large sum of money.
6. **Paul**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul was born a Roman citizen in Tarsus of Cilicia.
7. **Born**. We rejoice today because Paul was born in Tarsus, but born again on the Damascus Road.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the value of Roman citizenship to Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to talk to the government officials and listening to them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by using the benefits God bestowed upon us at birth, such as citizenship, that may be a blessing to us at just the right time.**

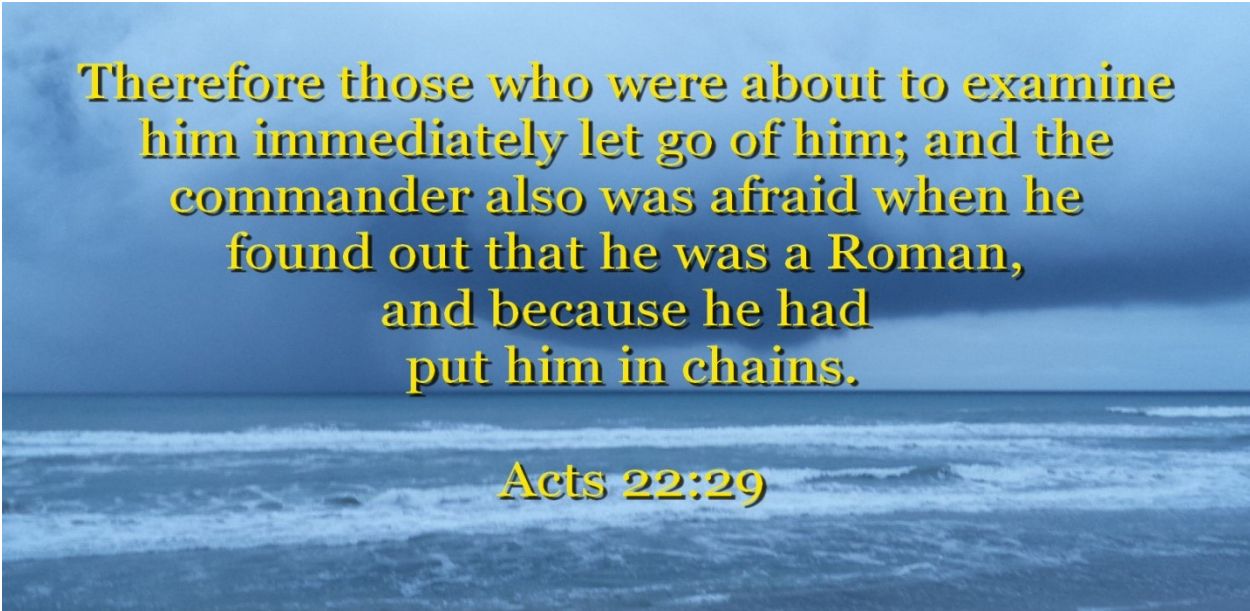
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul picked just the right time to disclose his citizenship. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He provides many different avenues for using the blessings He bestowed upon us at birth?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 810

Afraid Today



Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.

Acts 22:29

Why were all the soldiers scared? They were scared because they had put Paul in chains.

Under Roman law, citizens of the Roman Empire were granted special rights and privileges. One of those privileges included not being put in chains or otherwise punished without being condemned first in a court of law. The concept of innocent until proven guilty comes to mind.

The Roman commander had ordered the soldiers to put two chains on Paul when they took him into custody in the middle the mob. They compounded their error by stretching Paul out on thongs and were ready to examine him by scourging. At the most opportune moment, Paul told the centurion standing by that he was a Roman citizen.

That comment triggered fear in all the soldiers. They understood the stiff penalties for abusing a Roman citizen. By putting Paul in chains and threatening to scourge him, they knew they had opened themselves up for punishment. The very thing they had done to Paul illegally could be used

against them. The soldiers immediately let go of Paul when they found out he was a Roman citizen.

Immediately

1. **Therefore**. What happened immediately after Paul told the soldiers he was a Roman citizen? They let go of him.

2. **Examine**. The soldiers were about to examine Paul by scourging, a painful process of whipping, seeking the truth.

3. **Immediately**. Upon hearing the news that Paul was a Roman citizen, they immediately let go of him.

4. **Commander**. Likewise, even the Roman commander was afraid.

5. **Afraid**. The Roman commander knew better than to put chains upon a Roman citizen and so he was afraid because of what he had done to Paul with two chains.

6. **Roman**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember how Paul used his Roman citizenship to stop a brutal attack upon him.

7. **Chains**. We rejoice today because although the Romans put Paul in two chains, they soon released them after they learned from him that he was a Roman citizen.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the two chains on Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul was able to remove the chains with a very simple message to the soldiers.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by knowing the law that may help us to avoid physical abuse.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting that government officials may act improperly as they seek to learn the facts. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the courage of many missionaries who endure suffering and yet remain faithful to God?

HALLELUJAH!

6

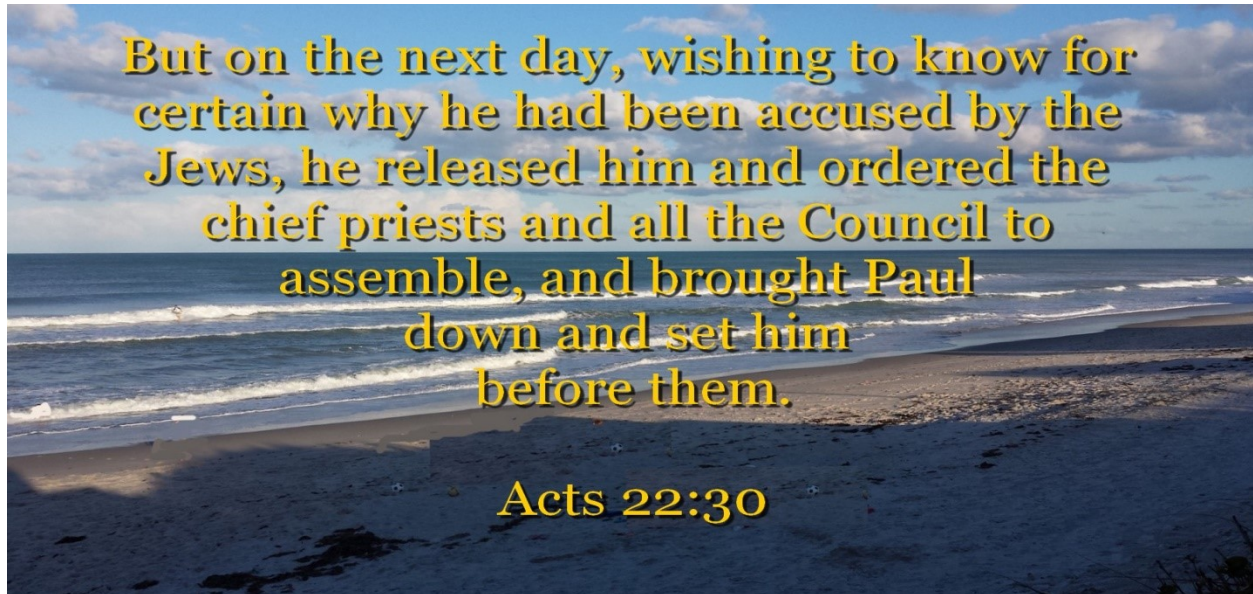
First Council Defense Today

As Paul stood before the Council in Jerusalem, Paul understood that the group consisted of both Sadducees and Pharisees, who are bitter enemies. Paul explained that he was a son of a Pharisee and a Pharisee himself, as the leaders of the Council already knew. Paul declared that he was on trial for the hope of the resurrection of the dead. The Council split between Pharisees and Sadducees immediately, because the Sadducees denied the afterlife, angels, and resurrection, while the Pharisees believed in all of them. The Council flew into an uproar and some of the scribes of the Pharisees declared that Paul had done nothing wrong. Paul was about to be torn apart by the group and the soldiers once again had to rescue Paul, taking him back to the barracks. The next night the Lord Jesus appeared to Paul telling him to take courage because he would be the witness of Jesus at Rome also.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 811

Ordered Today



What did the Roman commander do after releasing Paul from the thongs? The Roman commander ordered the chief priests and the Council to assemble so that he could set Paul before them.

Notice that the Roman commander had the authority to order the chief priests and the Council to do whatever he told them to do. The Romans held supreme authority over all the Jews, including the chief priests and their religious Council. Therefore, when the Roman commander ordered the Council and the chief priest to assemble, they had no choice but to obey his command.

On the other hand, the Roman commander did not want to ignore the Jews when the entire city was in confusion over Paul. As an able administrator, the Roman commander needed to know if there was a serious problem here with Paul. The Roman commander had seen the violent mob's reaction to the presence and words of Paul.

The apostles had been brought before the chief priests and the religious Council previously. They had inflicted punishment upon those men and then

released them from their prison. The Romans gave the religious leader some leeway in the administration of their religious justice.

Council

1. **Next**. What did the Roman commander arrange for the next day? The Roman commander arranged for Paul to appear before the Council and chief priests.

2. **Certain**. The Roman commander wanted to know for certain what the Jews accused Paul of doing and thought he had found the perfect solution to uncovering that knowledge.

3. **Accused**. The Roman commander still wanted to know what the Jews accused Paul of doing.

4. **Released**. The Roman commander released Paul from the scourging, but still kept Paul in custody.

5. **Ordered**. Vested with full Roman authority, the Roman commander ordered the chief priests and the all the Council to assemble.

6. **Assemble**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Roman commander assembling the chief priests and all the Council to hear Paul and to hear the charges against him and make a defense.

7. **Set**. We rejoice today because the Roman commander wanted to know the truth about Paul, but he was about to find out that his plan to set Paul before the chief priests and the Council would not turn out as he hoped.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Roman commander seeking the truth about Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for providing such details about Paul appearing before the chief priests and the Council assembled by order of the Roman commander.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His standard of justice and fair play, so that we may rely upon Him and not worldly councils and governments.**

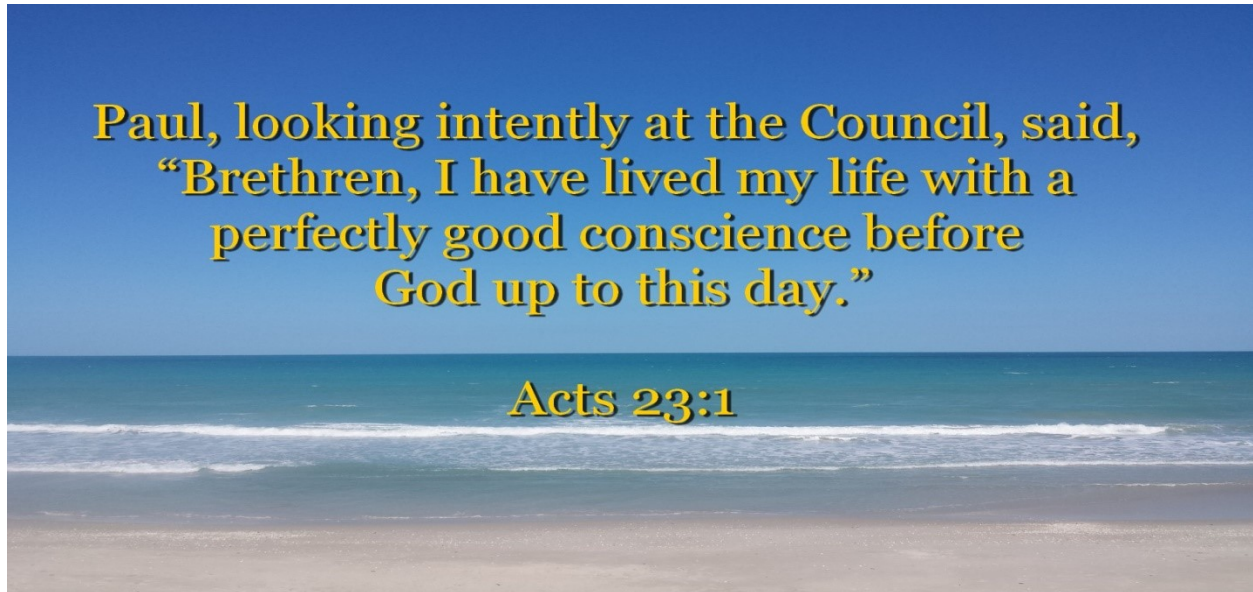
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul appearing before the chief priests and the Council at the order of the Roman commander. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for Paul's opportunity to tell his testimony of conversion in service to the Lord Jesus Christ to the chief priests and the Council?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 812

Paul Today



How did Paul begin his defense before the Council? Paul started with his personal testimony again.

Paul testified that he had lived his life with a perfectly good conscience before God up until this day. Paul was making a religious testimony to a religious group all under the watchful eye of a secular Roman government. Paul explained that he was doing God’s will with a clean conscience.

Paul appealed not only to the religious Council before him, but he was also making an appeal to the Roman commander seeking to know what had been going on. Paul also understood that the religious Council was comprised of many different groups within Judaism.

Paul had also heard the prophecies from different people on his way to Jerusalem. Those prophecies uniformly declared that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem, and God said that He would use Paul to bear His name to many different people in authority. Therefore, Paul knew that his trial before the Council that day probably was not going to be the end of the matter.

Conscience

1. **Paul**. How did Paul begin his defense? He began by describing his perfectly good conscience.
2. **Intently**. He was looking intently at the Council.
3. **Brethren**. He described those people as his brethren.
4. **Lived**. He also said that he had lived his life with a perfectly good conscience.
5. **Conscience**. Paul raised the issue of his conscience to show that he was self-aware and his conscience did not condemn him.
6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul testified that he had a perfectly good conscience before God.
7. **Day**. We rejoice today because Paul testified before the Jews that his conscience before God was clear right up until that day.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul calling the Jewish Council and the chief priests as brethren.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by finding points of identification with our enemies when we speak to them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by personalizing our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ as we talk to other people about God in our lives.**

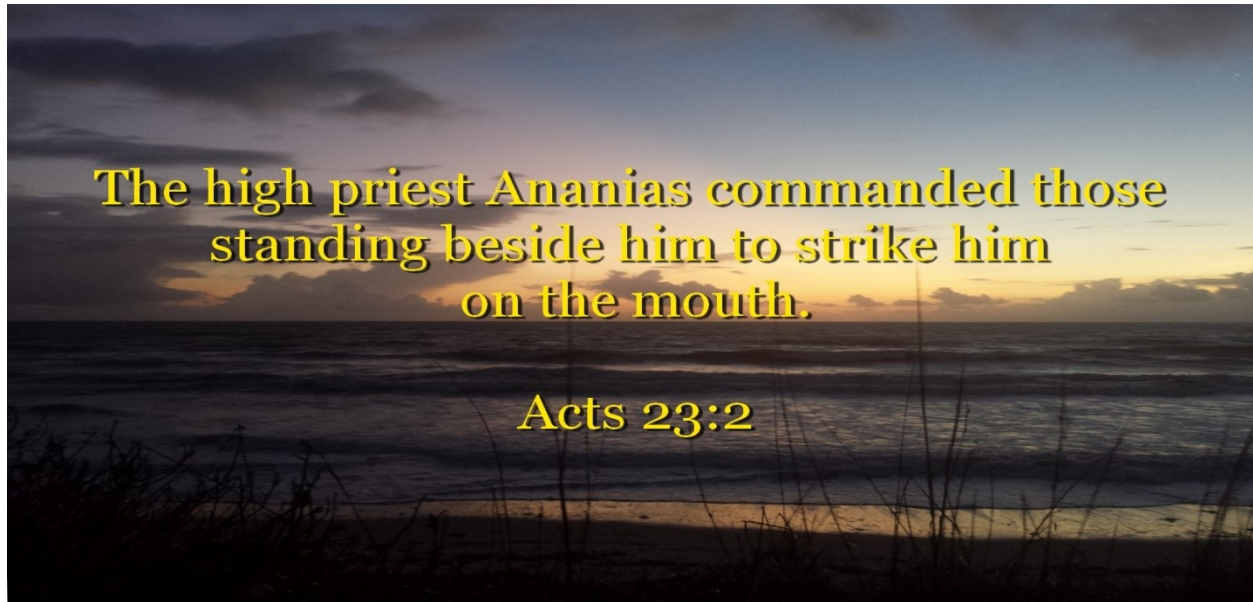
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for Paul's testimony before the chief priests and the Council. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that Paul could testify that his conscience remained good before God up until that day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 813

Ananias Today



What was the first thing that Ananias the high priesthood did? Ananias commanded those standing beside Paul to strike him on the mouth.

While the Roman commander had strong compunctions about putting Paul in chains and inflicting injuries upon Paul, the high priest had no such compunctions. Right off the bat, the high priest ordered Paul to be struck on the mouth for his opening statement.

The Roman commander must have learned quite quickly that the parties here were diametrically opposed in their views of God. Paul the Roman citizen had been struck by the Jews, his own countrymen. Just as a Roman commander could learn nothing from the mob attacking Paul, so also Paul's time before the Council and chief priests did not get off to a good start.

The chief priest struck Paul on the mouth for saying anything about God. Clearly, the chief priest was not impartial when it came to Paul. Ananias had already made up his mind about Paul long before this trial started. Paul was going to have an opportunity to keep speaking, but Ananias had certainly thrown the first punch.

Strike

1. **Priest**. How did Ananias respond to Paul's opening remarks? He had people strike Paul on the mouth.
2. **Ananias**. Ananias violently disagreed with Paul's statement about a clean conscience before God.
3. **Commanded**. He commanded the people standing near Paul to strike Paul on the mouth.
4. **Standing**. Ananias issued the order to the people standing near Paul to strike him.
5. **Him**. Ananias set the tone for the entire encounter with Paul by striking him in the mouth right from the start.
6. **Strike**. Living holy in the family of God means that Ananias had no sense of impartiality, nor any interest in the facts because he had already made up his mind that Paul was a blasphemer of God.
7. **Mouth**. We rejoice today because Paul used his mouth to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ, even though his testimony violently offended Ananias.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that many religious leaders can become violently aggressive towards the saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Ananias the chief priest striking Paul for mentioning God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to stand strong against ungodly religious leaders persecuting the church.**

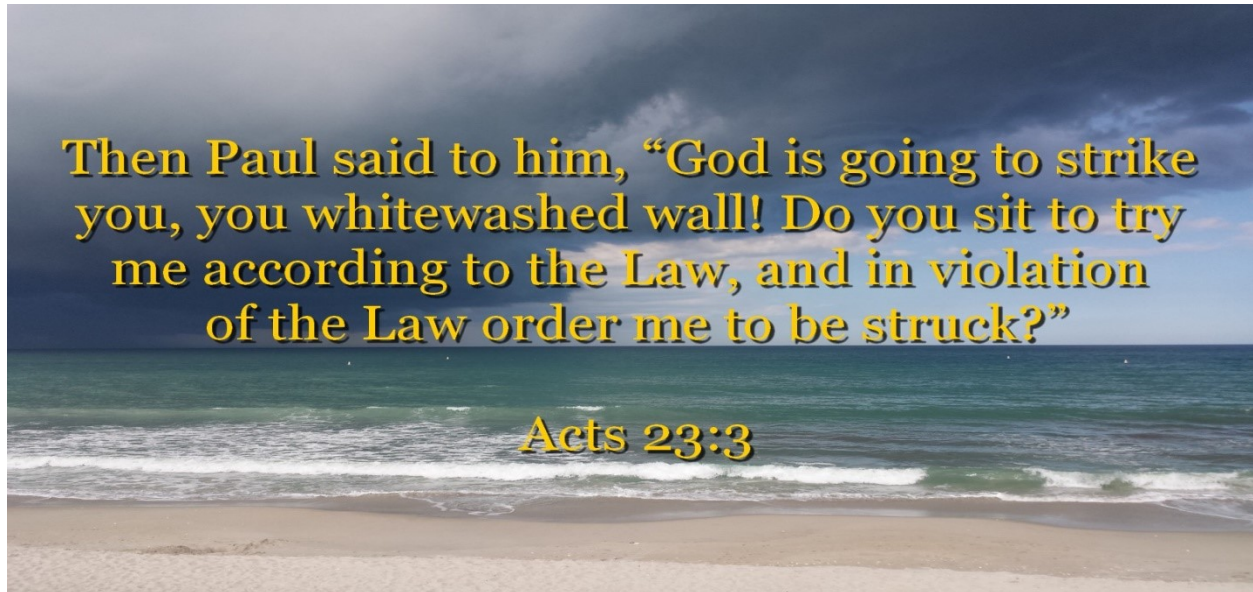
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering God's plan for Paul for him to speak to the chief priests and the Council before the Romans gathered around. Will you live holy in the family of God today by pondering the plans of God as He sets you before people so that they can hear your testimony about the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 814

Law Today



How did Paul respond to the punch from Ananias? Paul said that God was going to strike Ananias, a whitewashed wall.

Paul went on the offensive. He reminded Ananias that God would strike him for striking Paul. Paul called him a whitewashed wall. While Ananias had thrown the first punch towards Paul, Paul immediately responded by challenging the authority of the chief priest.

Paul turned the attention to the Law of Moses. Paul pointed out that Ananias was trying to try Paul according to the Law of Moses, but then violated the Law of Moses by striking Paul. Paul demonstrated that the high priest, under the Law of Moses, should not have struck Paul on the mouth for his opening statement. Paul showed that Ananias was not the final authority. Instead, the Law of Moses should have been the final authority for making judgments about Paul's conduct.

If the Roman commander thought he would quickly learn all the facts by placing Paul before the chief priest and the Council, he certainly realized after the initial exchanges that the parties had strong antagonism towards

one another. Even so, Paul was still a Roman citizen and deserved a fair trial. Obviously, Paul was not going to get a fair trial before the chief priests and the religious Council.

Violation

1. **Paul**. How did Paul respond to being struck in the mouth? Paul responded by saying God would strike Ananias.
2. **God**. Paul replied that God would strike Ananias.
3. **Strike**. Just as Ananias had ordered Paul to be struck, Paul promised Ananias that God would strike him.
4. **Whitewashed**. Paul also called Ananias a whitewashed wall.
5. **Law**. Turning then to the hypocrisy before him, Paul had indicted Ananias for striking him on the mouth.
6. **Violation**. Living holy in the family of God means that Ananias should not have struck Paul on the mouth in violation of the Law.
7. **Struck**. We rejoice today because God had fulfilled part of the prophecy that Paul would stand before leaders and authorities for the Lord Jesus Christ, even when they struck him without cause.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for His plans for Paul to testify about Jesus before many people in authority.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to set us before all the people who need to hear about Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by considering our words carefully about whom we are addressing before we blurt out words in quick response.**

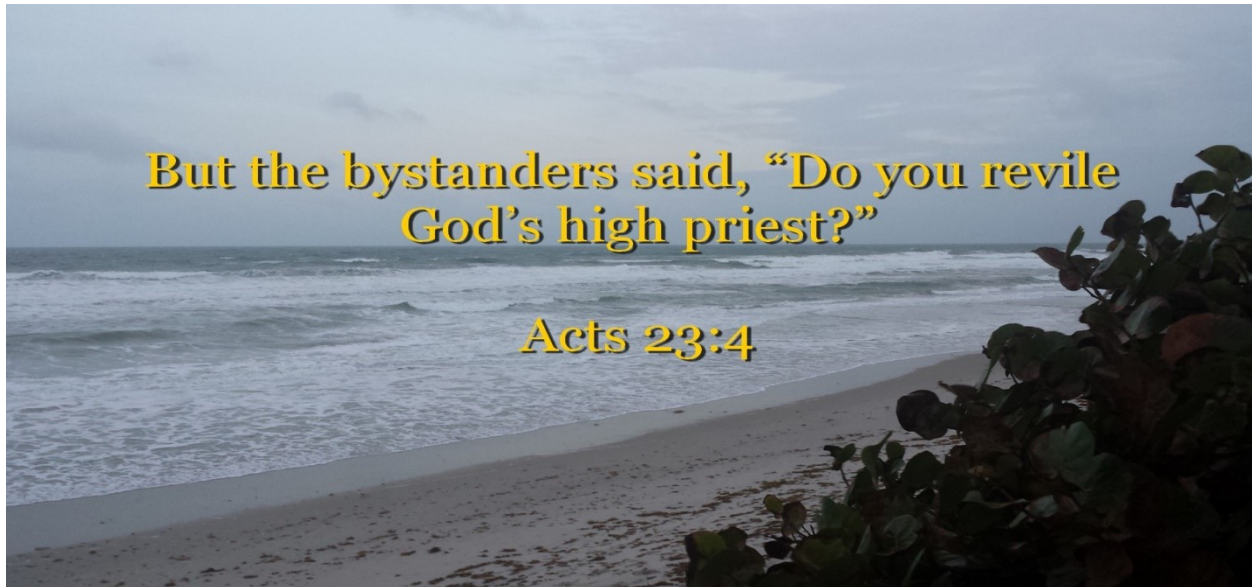
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Paul's determination to speak the truth and hold people accountable before God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking courage from the example of Paul as he testified before people in authority about Jesus?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 815

Bystanders Today



What did the bystanders say to Paul? They asked Paul why he reviled God's high priest.

The bystanders let Paul know that his comment about a whitewashed wall amounted to reviling the high priest, Ananias. The Old Testament Law indicated that people should not revile the high priest. Paul tried to keep the Old Testament Law, in the sense that he did not rely upon it for salvation, but he was not opposed to keeping some parts of the Law of Moses to avoid inflaming the Jews.

The bystanders had made a very important point to Paul. When Paul launched his immediate attack upon Ananias, everyone familiar with the Old Testament Law knew that Paul had just violated the Law by reviling the high priest. Paul had made a crucial mistake early in the trial. Everyone in the room knew that Paul had broken the Law of Moses.

First impressions can be very difficult to overcome. In fact, Ananias had no business striking Paul for his testimony for Christ. Likewise, Paul

should not have reviled the high priest Ananias. Neither party was shining brightly during the first few moments of the trial.

Priest

1. **Bystanders**. What did the bystanders say to Paul? They told him about the person he had reviled.

2. **Said**. When the bystanders heard what Paul had said about Ananias, they immediately let Paul know that Ananias was the chief priest.

3. **Do**. They let Paul know by asking him a question starting with “do you”.

4. **You**. They wanted Paul to know that calling Ananias a whitewashed wall whom God would strike amounted to him reviling the chief priest.

5. **Revile**. Paul reviled the chief priest by calling him a whitewashed wall whom God would strike.

6. **God's**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul acted in ignorance, but he certainly acted improperly under the Law of Moses.

7. **Priest**. We rejoice today because God brought Paul before the high priest so that he could bear testimony about the Lord Jesus before not only the chief priest, but also the Council and everyone else listening to him that day.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by recognizing that God has plans for our lives and He puts us in front of people with whom He would like us to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He puts us in the right place at the right time to share our personal testimonies of God's grace in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by telling the truth about judges charged with following the Law of God, but violating that Law with their own behavior.**

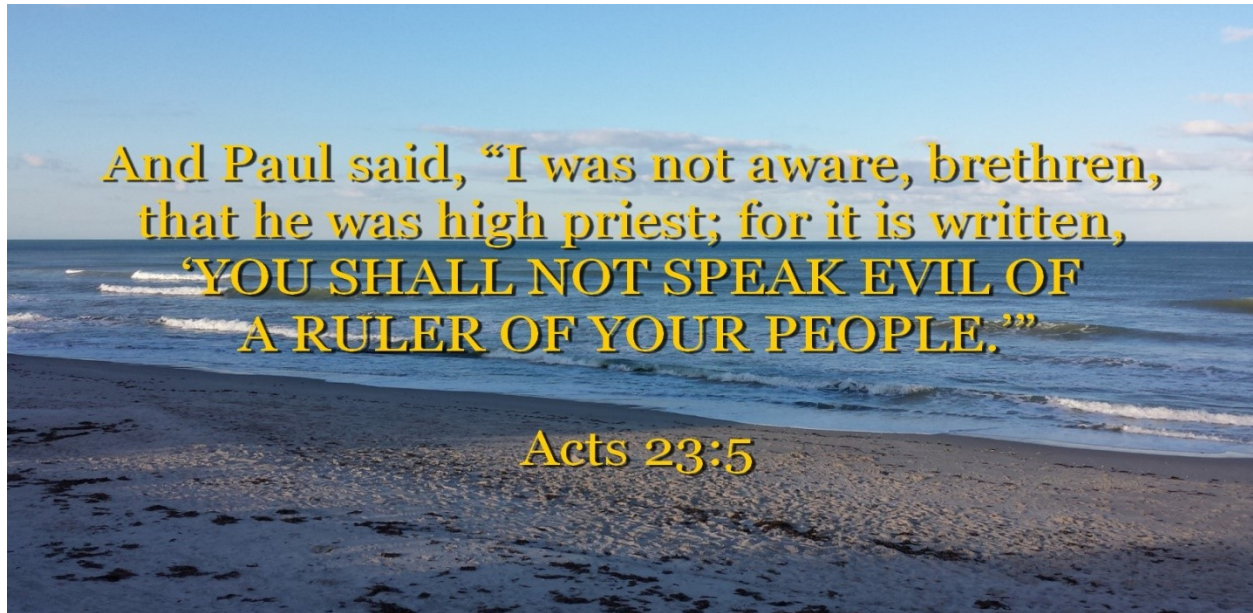
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul charging Ananias with sitting in judgment upon Paul while Ananias himself broke the Law. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the opportunity He presents to testify about the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 816

Aware Today



When Paul heard it was the high priest, what did he do? Paul said he was unaware that he was the high priest.

When Paul reached the point in his testimony that he said he had lived before God with a perfectly good conscience up until that day, the chief priest ordered those standing by Paul to strike him on the mouth. Paul reacted immediately, saying, that God would strike the high priest. Paul also said the high priest was a whitewashed wall.

Paul then heard from the people standing beside him that Ananias was the high priest. Paul then replied that he did not know he was the high priest. Paul also quoted the Old Testament Law saying that you shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people. Paul showed the Council and the high priest that he knew the Law and intended to follow the Law.

Paul again addressed the group as brethren. He also tried to show that he intended to avoid breaking the Law. The Jews charged him with breaking the Law, and ignoring the Law of Moses, and the customs of the Jews. At this

point, the Roman commander must have been fairly unclear about what was happening.

Written

1. **Paul**. What was Paul's reply about reviling the high priest? Paul explained that he did not know the man was a high priest.
2. **Not**. Paul said he was not aware that Ananias was actually a high priest.
3. **Aware**. In effect, Paul pled ignorance.
4. **Priest**. Paul then quoted the Old Testament Law regarding high priests.
5. **Not**. The Old Testament Law commanded that no one speak evil of a high priest.
6. **Speak**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used Paul to speak to the high priest about Jesus, but Paul did not know immediately that Ananias was a high priest.
7. **Evil**. We rejoice today because when Paul spoke evil about the high priest, Paul spoke in ignorance.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by being cautious with our words about other people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by admitting our public mistakes as quickly as possible.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that we all make mistakes, but we praise God because God has graciously forgiven us for all of our sins.**

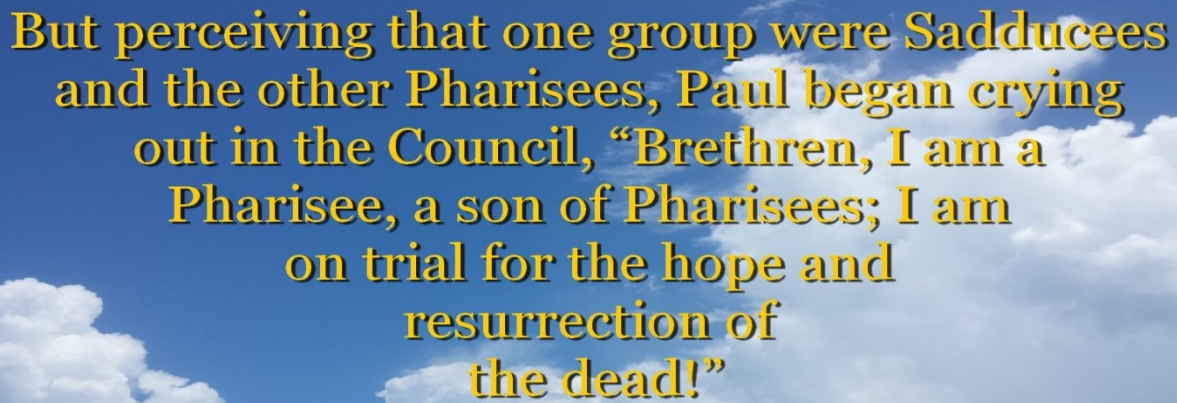
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by quoting the Bible to show that we were violating a command of Scripture and so acknowledging our guilt. Will you live holy in the family of God today by acknowledging publicly when you have erred publicly?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 817

Perceiving Today



But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, “Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

Acts 23:6

After apologizing to the high priest, what did Paul do? Paul noticed that the group was comprised of Sadducees and Pharisees.

When Paul understood that the Pharisees were on the Council, Paul declared that he was a Pharisee and a son of Pharisees. That statement split the Pharisees from the Sadducees. The Sadducees did not believe in an afterlife, or in angels, or any such thing. In contrast, the Pharisees believed in all those things.

Paul then explained that he was on trial for the resurrection of the dead. Paul was playing to the Pharisees with that comment, although he believed what he was saying. Paul was dividing the Council right down the middle by casting the trial as an attempt to persecute those people like Paul who believed in the resurrection. Paul was there proclaiming the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The chief priest was a Sadducee and many of the rulers were Sadducees. They objected to anyone proclaiming resurrection and eternal

life. They especially hated the claim that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead and Paul made that claim repeatedly.

Resurrection

1. **Perceiving**. What did Paul say after admitting his guilt? He noticed the different groups on the Council.

2. **Sadducees**. Sadducees on the Council denied the resurrection, angels, and spirits.

3. **Pharisees**. Pharisees believed in all of them.

4. **Crying**. Paul began crying out that he was a Pharisee.

5. **Son**. Paul also declared that he was the son of Pharisees.

6. **Trial**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul cleverly framed the entire trial is a referendum on the doctrine of resurrection.

7. **Resurrection**. We rejoice today because the Bible teaches resurrection of both saints and unbelievers.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by framing the issues correctly so people can understand them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Paul who tell the truth and make alliances.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing how Paul changed the entire scope of the trial by bringing up the hope of the resurrection.**

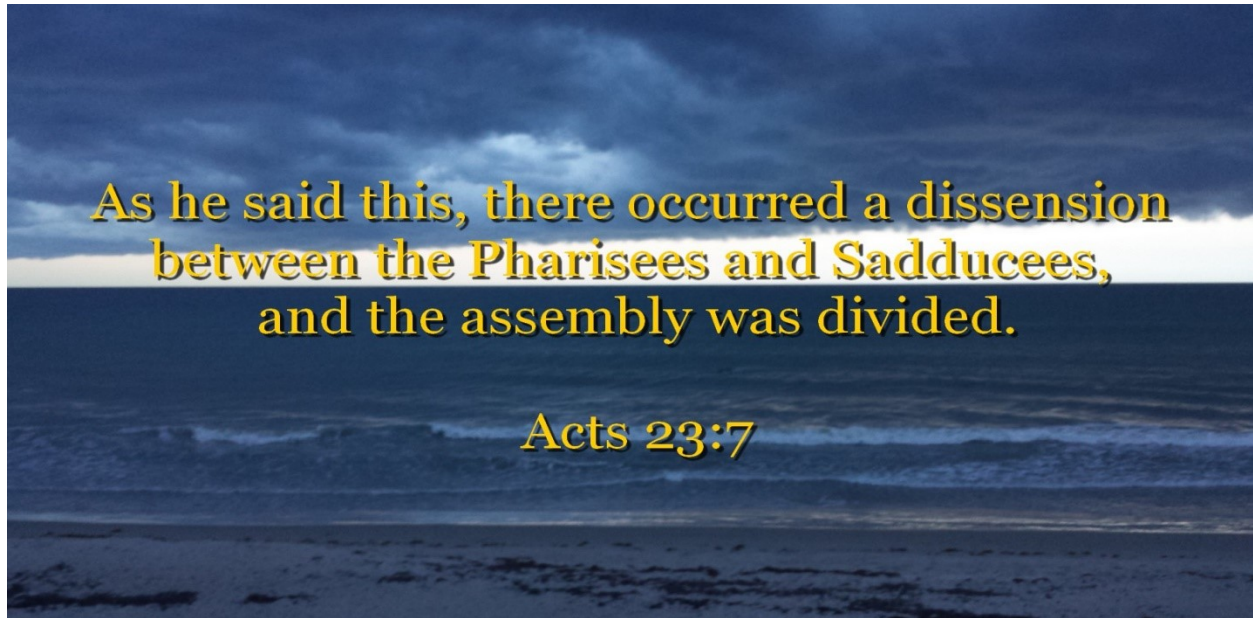
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by being careful to frame the issues properly. Will you live holy in the family of God today by talking about points of identity that will divide your enemies?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 818

Dissension Today



What happened after Paul claimed he was on trial for the resurrection of the dead? A dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees arose immediately.

When Paul claimed he was on trial for the resurrection, he intended to split the Pharisees from the Sadducees. Those two groups often fought over the ideas of resurrection, eternal life, and similar matters. Paul was taking the side of the Pharisees and he disclosed that his parents were Pharisees.

The Roman commander wanted to know the truth about the charges against Paul. So far Paul had managed to receive a strike on the mouth from the chief priest and caused dissension among the members of the Council. At that point the Roman commander must have understood that Paul was a very divisive man among the Jews. The Roman commander would also observe that the Jews were divided into several factions, disagreeing among themselves. His hopes of ascertaining the charges against Paul began to fade even farther because the Jews could not settle among themselves on those charges.

Divided

1. **He**. What happened after Paul said he was on trial for the resurrection? A great division occurred in the assembly.
2. **Occurred**. The division occurred in the assembly because Paul perceived that there were Sadducees and Pharisees present.
3. **Division**. Paul created an atmosphere of division based upon his knowledge of the contradictory views of Pharisees and Sadducees.
4. **Pharisees**. The Pharisees believed in resurrection and Paul said he was on trial for the resurrection.
5. **Sadducees**. The Sadducees opposed any ideas about resurrection and so a sharp disagreement arose in the assembly.
6. **Assembly**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul divided the assembly based on doctrinal views about resurrection and the hope of the resurrection.
7. **Divided**. We rejoice today because Paul divided the Council and so escaped their judgment and potential sentence of death.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how different views divide religious groups.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by exposing divisions among different religious groups at just the right time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding how different religious groups dislike one another and that causes them to fragment.**

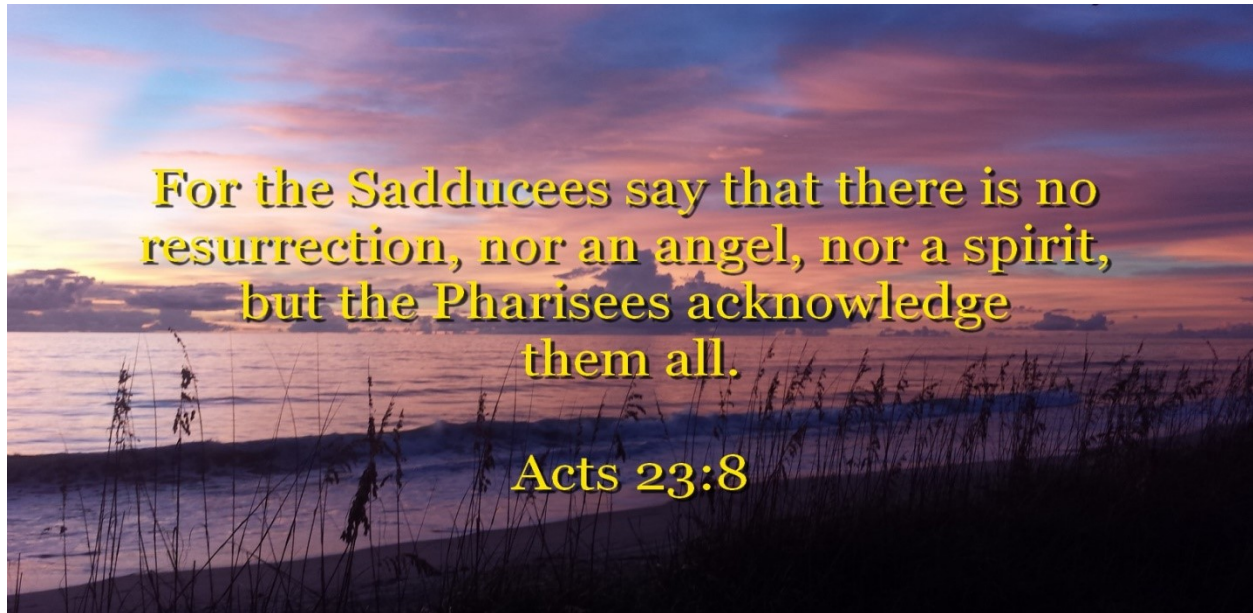
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by exposing differences in religious groups at just the right time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering how Paul divided the Council and the assembly at just the right time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 819

Sadducees Today



Why were the Sadducees and the Pharisees divided? The Sadducees said there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit; the Pharisees acknowledged them all.

Paul was raised in Jerusalem and educated under Gamaliel. The chief priests and the elders had issued letters for Paul to persecute followers of the Way. Paul himself was a chief persecutor of the church on behalf of Judaism. Paul knew exactly the theology of both Sadducees and Pharisees. Having observed that both Pharisees and Sadducees were on the Council before him, Paul immediately devised a plan to split the judgment about Paul. Paul also intended to recast the entire proceedings as an attack upon all the Pharisees.

By showing the Council that he was a Pharisee and the son of a Pharisee, Paul sided with the Pharisees and tacitly gained their support. When he then charged the Council with persecuting him because of this belief in the resurrection, the Pharisees understood his point of view and the Sadducees rejected his view of resurrection in general. Paul had once again divided his enemies and the proceeding fell in the dissensions along party

lines. The Sadducees simply did not believe in resurrection, angels or spirits, but Pharisees believed in all of them.

Pharisees

1. **Sadducees**. What did the Sadducees believe? The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, angels, or spirits.

2. **Say**. They said that none of those things exist.

3. **No**. They were opposed to people who said they do exist and the Sadducees often had positions of great influence.

4. **Resurrection**. Paul said he was on trial for the resurrection.

5. **Angel**. He also implied that some Spirit had talked to him, but he was referring to the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus taught that God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

7. **Pharisees**. We rejoice today because Paul knew the Pharisees believed in all of those things which the Sadducees denied and used that as a lever to divide the Council and assembly.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus taught that God is Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the doctrine that separates different factions.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by using factional positions to divide the enemy.**

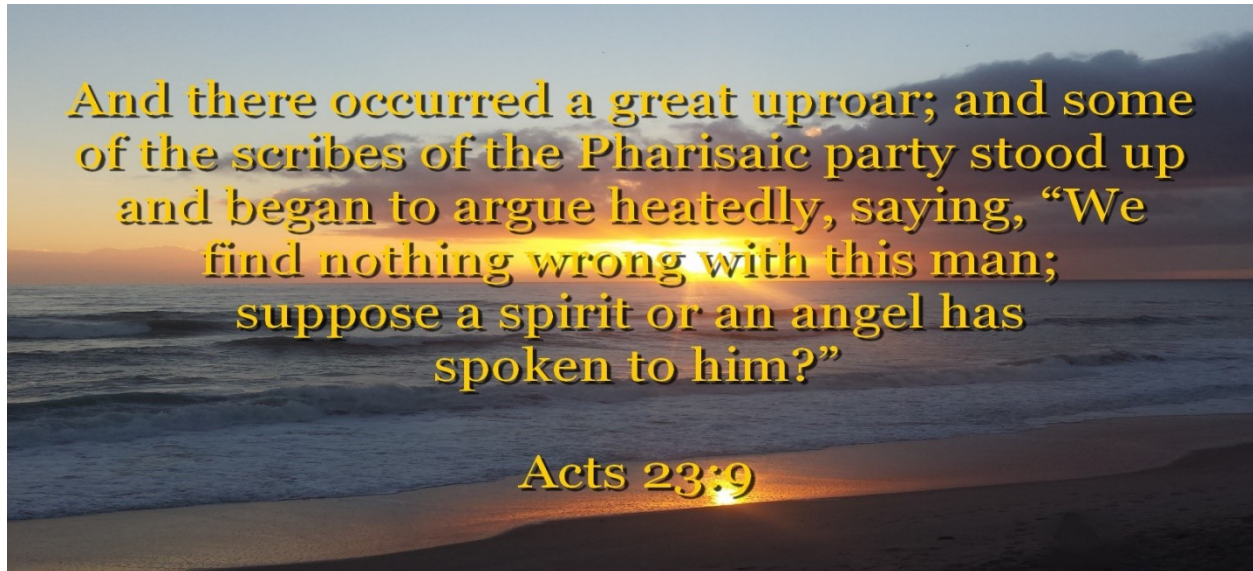
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by relying upon the word of God and what it says rather than what people say about the word of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in Jesus that His words are always true?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 820

Uproar Today



What happened in the Council after Paul talked about resurrection? A great uproar occurred in the Council.

Just as Paul had managed to cause a great uproar across the entire city of Jerusalem, so also Paul produced an uproar in the Council. The Roman commander's hopes of finding the truth about the charges against Paul were incinerated by the rage flowing through the Council towards one another. Paul divided and ignited the Jews both in the city and in the Council.

The Pharisees leapt to the aid of Paul and said they found nothing wrong with this man. The scribes of the Pharisees asked the probing question about whether a spirit or an angel had spoken to Paul. They had heard Paul's testimony for Christ about the voice he heard on the Damascus Road. As Pharisees they freely acknowledged spirits and angels and believed in an afterlife. They were not predisposed to believe in Jesus as Messiah. A heated argument broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Paul had successfully tapped into the lasting division between Pharisees and Sadducees when it came to resurrection, angels, and spirits. As a Pharisee himself and a son of a Pharisee, Paul appealed successfully to

the party of the Pharisees who came to his aid. They were acquitted Paul of any charge publicly. Dissension gave way to an uproar which raged through the Council.

Argue

1. **Occurred**. The great divide occurred for what reason? Paul had changed the entire atmosphere when he said that he was on trial for the resurrection.

2. **Great**. Those words set off a great difference of opinion and turned up the heat.

3. **Uproar**. An uproar ensued immediately with a heated debate raging through the Council and assembly.

4. **Find**. The scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up.

5. **Nothing**. They declared that they found nothing wrong with Paul.

6. **Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that the scribes of the Pharisees asked a very pertinent question about whether an angel or spirit had spoken to Paul.

7. **Angel**. We rejoice today because we know that Jesus spoke to Paul on many different occasions, and every child has an angel watching over them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Bible reveals the truth that angels and spirits exist.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He wants us to worship Him in spirit and in truth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

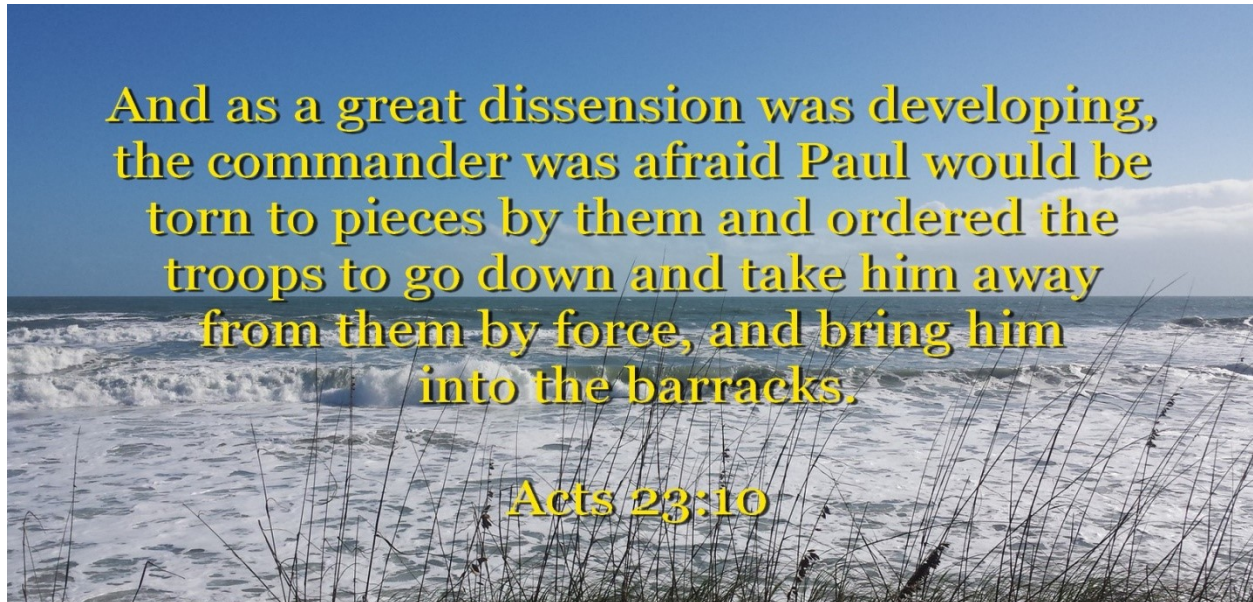
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering and applying the truth found in Scripture. Will you live holy in the family of God today by learning more about the truths found in Scripture about angels, spirits and the resurrection?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 821

Dissension Today



Why did the Roman commander bring Paul back to the barracks? He took him back to the barracks because the Jews were about to tear him apart again.

The Jewish Council and chief priests had convened to bring charges against Paul. The Roman commander ordered everybody to appear and set Paul before them. He aimed to find out why the Jews had charges against Paul and what those charges were. Paul did not get far into his defense before the Jews began to fight one another. Paul had divided the Pharisees from the Sadducees over the concept of resurrection and angels. They fell into an uproar and intended to harm Paul. The Pharisees sided with Paul when he claimed that the trial was about the resurrection. Some of the Pharisees even thought that an angel may have spoken to Paul.

When the Roman commander saw that a great dissension among the Jews was developing quickly, he became afraid that they were about to tear Paul to pieces. He had already had to rescue Paul once before from the Jews in Jerusalem when the whole city was in an uproar. Therefore, taking

preemptive action, the Roman commander ordered the troops to go down and take Paul away by force back to the barracks.

Barracks

1. **Dissension**. Who caused the dissension? Paul caused dissension in the Council by declaring he was on trial for the hope of the resurrection.

2. **Commander**. Seeing the dissension, the Roman commander knew trouble was brewing.

3. **Afraid**. He became afraid that the Jews might hurt Paul.

4. **Torn**. In fact, the Roman commander was afraid that Paul might be torn to pieces by the angry group.

5. **Take**. At that point, the Roman commander decided to take immediate action.

6. **Force**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used a Roman commander to deliver Paul from the mob of Jews ready to tear him to pieces.

7. **Barracks**. We rejoice today because the Roman commander ordered his troops to take Paul back to the safety of the barracks.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how God used that Roman commander to deliver Paul from the Jewish mob on two occasions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the many ways He intervenes to help His children.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by always counting upon Jesus to help us every day, all day.**

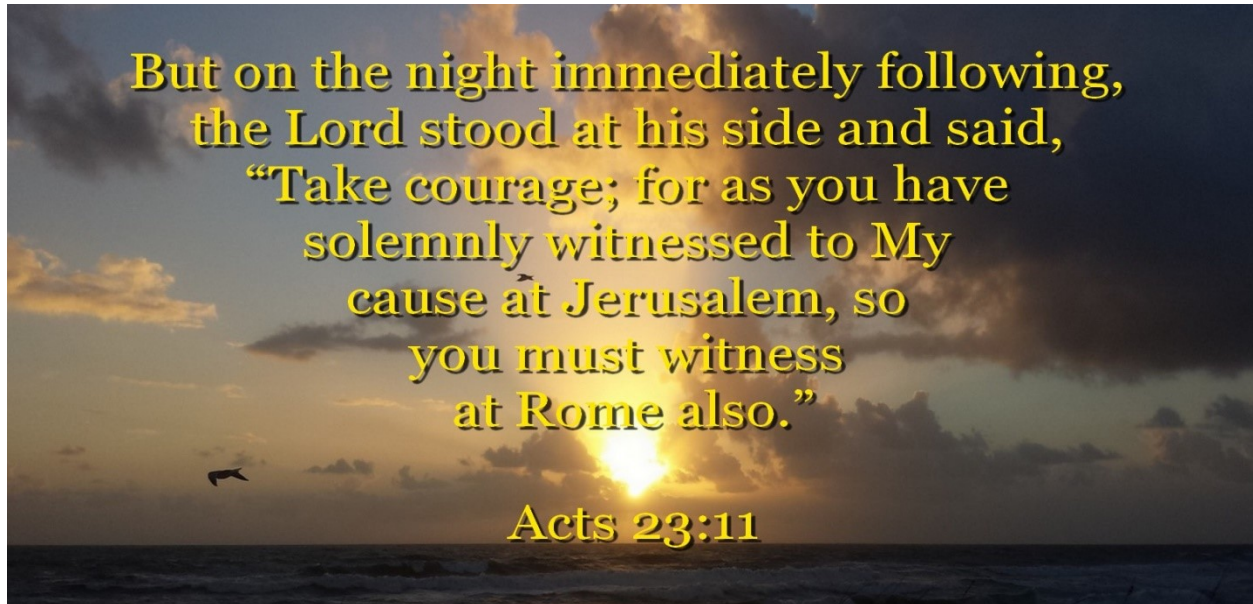
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for having a Roman commander ready to help Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering how God moves all kinds of people to carry out His plans, even when they have no inkling?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 822

Witness Today



What encouraged Paul the following night? The Lord Jesus stood at his side and talked to him.

Jesus brings the best encouragement. As Paul had been beaten once by the Jews and then nearly torn apart by the Jews on the second time, Paul could surely have used some encouragement. Just as Agabus and others had told him, trouble awaited him in Jerusalem.

Paul remained steadfast in his determination to follow the will of God. As he told his friends, he was prepared to lay down his life for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. As Paul was spending the night in the barracks on the day following the latest uproar of the Jews, the Lord Jesus appeared to Paul and stood right next to him.

The Lord Jesus told him to take courage. Jesus knew exactly how to produce courage and His courage was the best courage anywhere. Jesus loves courageous disciples, even when they are beaten, tired and afraid. Jesus outlined the future for Paul.

Jesus told Paul that just as he had been His witness in Jerusalem, so also he would be His witness in Rome. With very few words, Jesus had just laid out the course of Paul's trial in multiple venues with multiple judges and his appeal all the way to Rome before Caesar. Paul would need courage, but the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ standing right beside him perfectly encouraged Paul.

Rome

1. **Night**. What happened at night in the barracks? The Lord Jesus stood next to Paul.

2. **Lord**. The Lord Jesus had appeared to Paul in Corinth and now He appeared to Paul in Jerusalem.

3. **Side**. Paul had been taken into the barracks and Jesus suddenly appeared by his side.

4. **Courage**. Jesus told Paul to take courage.

5. **Witnessed**. He reminded Paul that he had provided solemn testimony to His cause at Jerusalem.

6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul went to Jerusalem notwithstanding the prophecies of pain and suffering awaiting there.

7. **Rome**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus told Paul that he would also be His witnesses in Rome, giving Paul courage and strength that his legal struggles would continue on appeal to Rome.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus standing next to Paul in the barracks.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by hearing the voice of Jesus telling Paul and us to take courage.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising Jesus for the way He stood next to Paul in the barracks that night.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by giving God the glory for knowing just how to encourage us with His presence. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for all the courage He brings into our lives with His constant presence?

HALLELUJAH!

7

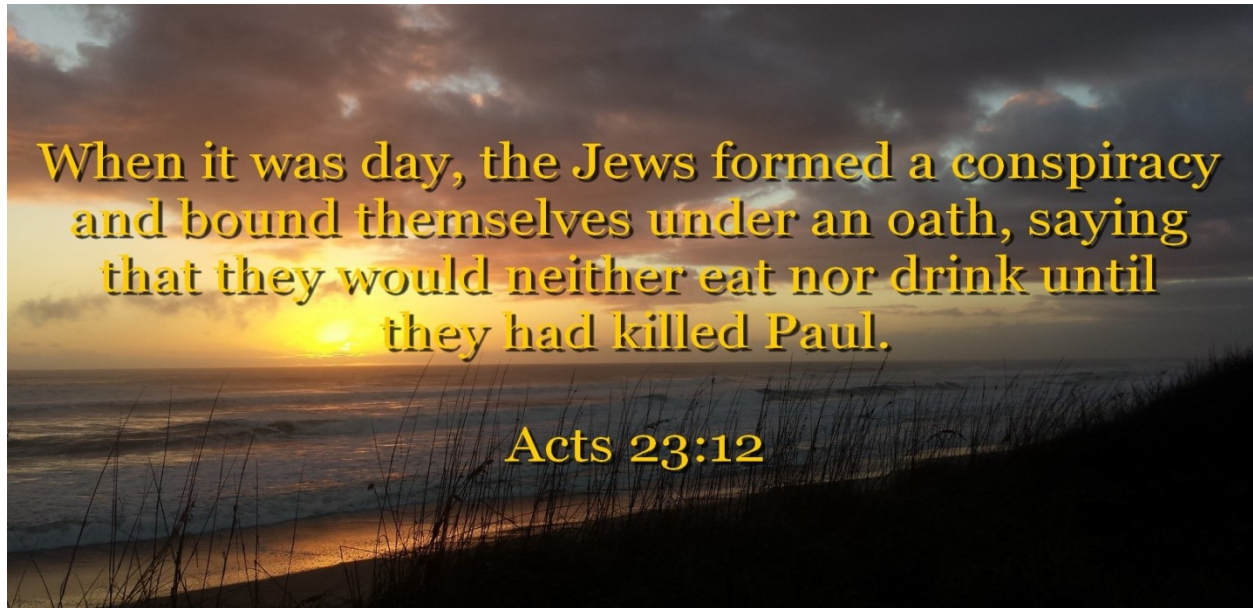
Conspiracy Today

The day after Paul appeared before the Council, more than 40 men joined together under oath to kill Paul, vowing they would not eat or drink until they had done so. The son of Paul's sister heard of the ambush plotted by the conspirators and the young man told Paul. Paul sent the young man to the Roman commander who believed the young man's report of the conspiracy to kill Paul. The Roman commander took immediate action.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 823

Conspiracy Today



How did the Jews plan to kill Paul the next time? They bound themselves together in a conspiracy to kill Paul.

Jesus stood next to Paul during the night and spoke words of tremendous encouragement to Paul. Jesus also outlined Paul's legal course going all the way to Rome on appeal. Jesus intended for Paul to be His witness of salvation to many people in authority, both Jews and Gentiles. Paul was no stranger to courts and persecution, but Jesus had great plans for Paul as he traveled through the Roman legal system.

The Jews also had plans for Paul. They bound themselves together with an oath that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul. They formed a criminal conspiracy of murder against Paul. He had faced similar groups of Jews doing their best to kill him in Asia and Europe. In fact, the Jews from Asia incited the riot in the Temple of Jerusalem. Paul knew that his struggle was not only against flesh and blood, but against powers in heavenly places.

This criminal conspiracy would be a great cause of concern. The Jews were very zealous to kill Paul, as witnessed by the uproar caused in the city and when the Council gathered with the chief priest to hear Paul's defense.

Oath

1. **Day**. What happened when it became day? The Jews formed a conspiracy against Paul.
2. **Jews**. The Jews had been wanting to kill Paul for quite a while.
3. **Conspiracy**. They hatched a conspiracy against Paul based on that hatred.
4. **Bound**. They bound themselves together in a common purpose to kill Paul.
5. **Oath**. They were so serious about killing Paul that they took an oath, binding themselves to bring death to Paul or die trying.
6. **Drink**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Jews swearing that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul.
7. **Killed**. We rejoice today because the Jews did not kill Paul and so, if they kept their oath, they perished trying.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He preserved Paul's life from the conspiracy of the Jews.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that we must trust God for deliverance because evil forces joined together against the family of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for delivering Paul from that evil conspiracy.**

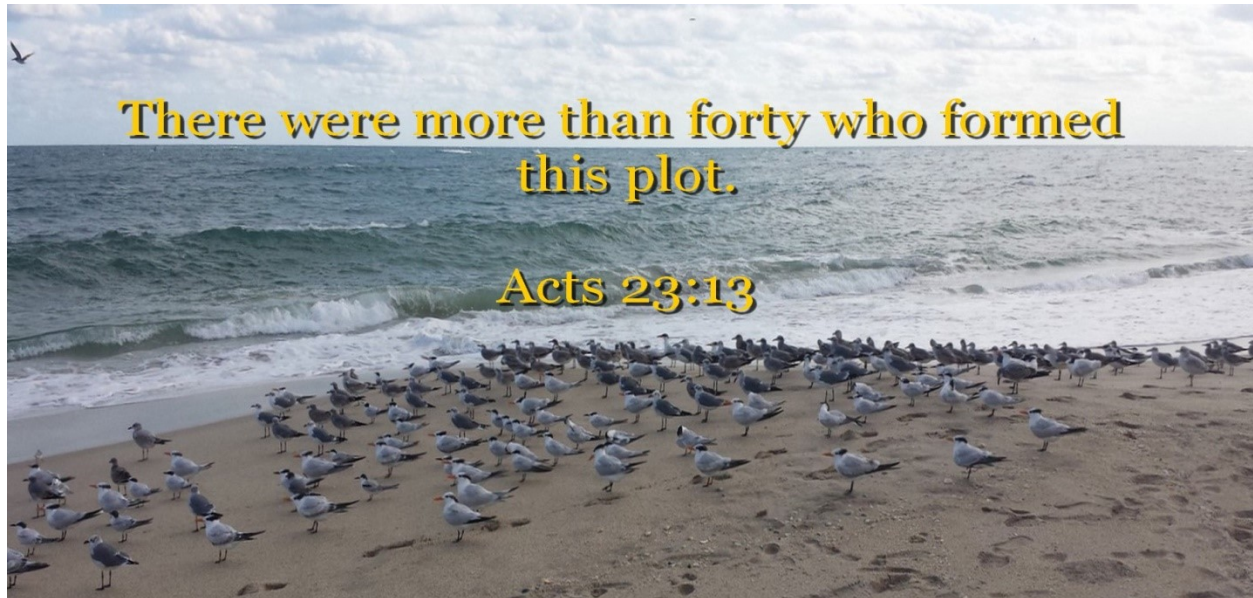
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by blessing God for His mercies of deliverance. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to deliver you from organized conspiracies against the family of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 824

Forty Today



How many Jews joined the conspiracy to kill Paul? More than 40 Jews bound themselves under that oath.

Some death threats are more serious than others. Many public personalities face death threats all the time. In this case, however, more than 40 Jews had bound themselves together under an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. In essence, they were pledging their lives against the death of Paul. In their minds, someone was going to die.

The Jews formed that conspiracy on the day after Jesus appeared to Paul in the Roman barracks. Jesus always shows up at the right time and makes His presence known. He brought comfort to the disciples on the first day of the week when they had shut the door and locked it. He brought comfort to Paul when He appeared to him in Corinth and told him that He had many people in that city and Paul would be safe there. Paul had been relentlessly chased by the jealous Jews of Thessalonica and had been beaten and left for dead by people in Asia. Paul understood persecution, but by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, he found the power to boldly proclaim the Gospel of God and be a witness for Jesus in all legal venues.

Plot

1. **There**. How many people formed the plot to kill Paul? More than 40 people plotted to kill Paul.
2. **More**. Paul faced more than 40 people who took an oath to kill him.
3. **Forty**. Those 40 people vowed that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul.
4. **Who**. Those people who vowed to kill Paul were very zealous Jews.
5. **Formed**. They formed the plot and bound themselves together in it because they seriously wanted to stop Paul from talking about Jesus.
6. **This**. Living holy in the family of God means that this plot against Paul was created by spiritual forces arrayed against Jesus and the family of God.
7. **Plot**. We rejoice today because the plot against Paul was ultimately unsuccessful.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that evil people plotted against the family of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that Jesus prepared Paul with courage to face the evil plot against him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by putting on the full armor of God to protect ourselves from evil plots.**

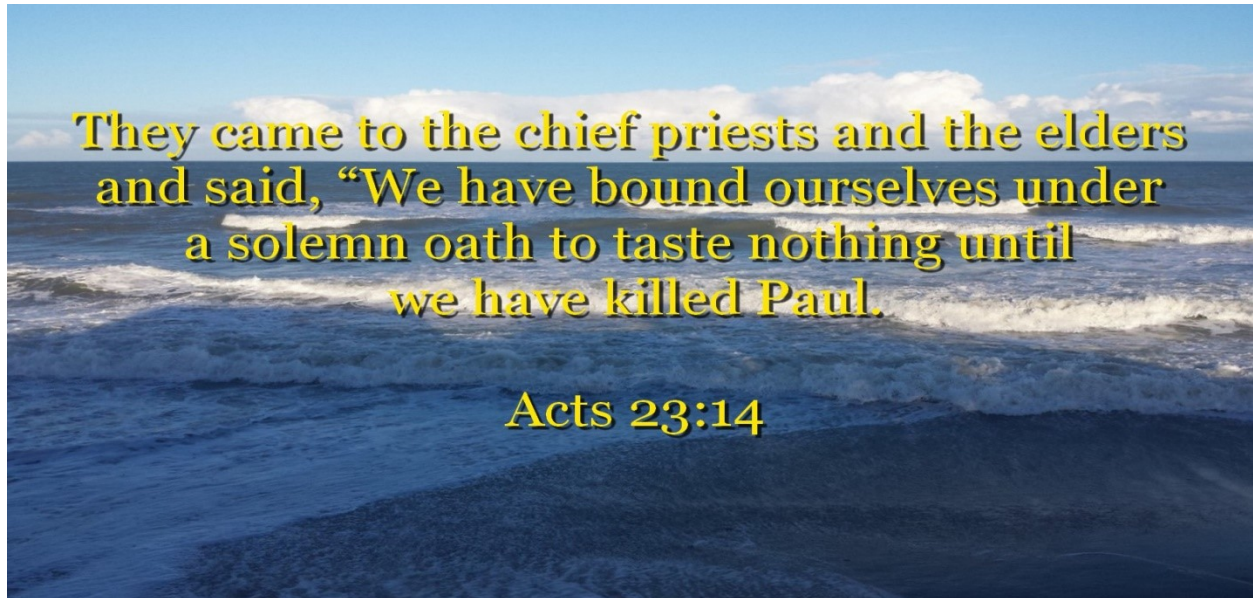
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by putting our faith in the power of God to keep us safe as we bear testimony for Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking refuge in God our Savior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 825

Bound Today



How serious was the conspiracy? The men bound under the conspiracy told the chief priests and the elders about their oath.

Some people take an oath and it means nothing to them. People frequently lie on a witness stand and lie at depositions where they must testify to the truth under oath. They lie to the police and they lie to their families and friends. Their word of honor means very little to them.

The Jews took a solemn oath that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul. They meant what they said by telling the chief priests and elders about the solemn oath that they took. In their minds, they thought they were doing the will of God and being zealous for the God they knew. Sadly, for them, they were children of the devil and doing the work of the devil.

When people take foolish oaths, then many bad consequences befall them. Stories about bad oaths in the Old Testament remind us about how taking an oath can produce bad lethal consequences. We know that Paul went all the way to Rome on appeal, so those people under the oath died if they

kept their oath. They could not have survived that period of time without eating or drinking. Paul survived their oath because the Lord Jesus was for him. Whom should Paul fear, because God was for him?

Killed

1. **They**. What did the conspirators do? They made the chief priests and the elders aware of their plot.

2. **Came**. They came personally to the chief priests and the elders of the people.

3. **Chief**. The chief priests were supposed to be the spiritual leaders of Israel.

4. **Elders**. The elders were recognized by the Jews as leaders also.

5. **Bound**. The conspirators told them about how they bound themselves under an oath to kill Paul.

6. **Solemn**. Living holy in the family of God means that the enemies of God can be very solemn in their devotion to killing saints.

7. **Killed**. We rejoice today because despite their plot to kill Paul, Jesus had other plans for Paul to live and testify in Rome about Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the way He took care of Paul and never let the evil ones fulfill their vows.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul met Jesus and Jesus appointed Paul to be His witness to many people in authority.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejecting evil plots and trusting the power of God to overcome evil plots formed against the family of God.**

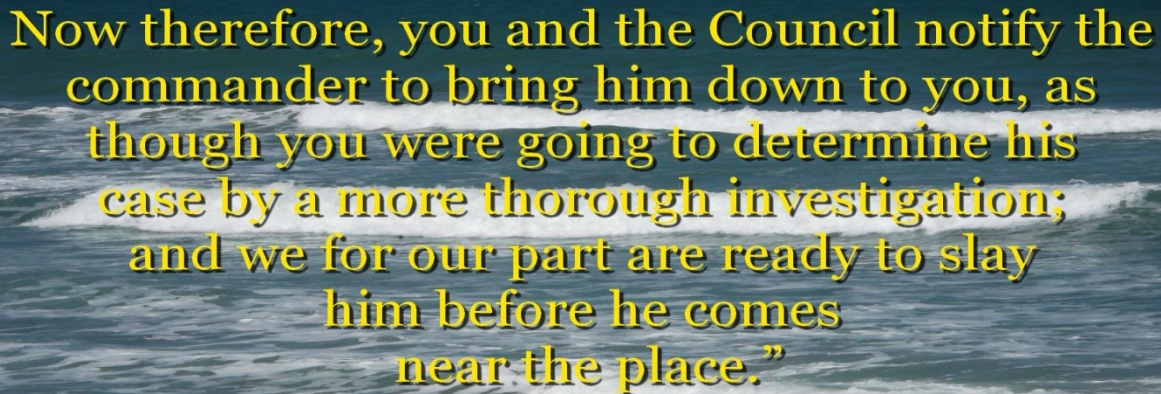
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by standing on Jesus, the Rock of Our Salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never being swayed by the forces of evil plotting to thwart the plans of God for our lives?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 826

Notify Today



Now therefore, you and the Council notify the commander to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case by a more thorough investigation; and we for our part are ready to slay him before he comes near the place.”

Acts 23:15

What were the dynamics of the new conspiracy? They planned on killing Paul before he got near the Council chambers.

The Jews binding themselves under an oath to kill Paul concocted a plan. In league with the chief priests and the Council, they asked the chief priests and the Council to call Paul back to the Council for further investigation. They were hoping the Roman commander would comply and bring Paul out of the barracks down to the Council chambers.

The Jews knew that the Roman commander wanted to find out the facts about the charges against Paul brought by the Jews. Three times the Roman commander had tried to ascertain those facts and had thrice been denied. Each time the Jews broke out into such an uproar over the things that Paul was doing and saying that the Roman commander could not learn anything new.

The Jews cleverly thought that the Roman commander would jump at another chance to find out the facts. The Jews played to the interest of the Roman commander. Before the Roman commander could try Paul under

Roman law, he had to understand the charges against Paul and see if they merited any proceedings under Roman law.

Investigation

1. **You**. How did the chief priest, the elders, and the Council all become liars and co-conspirators to murder Paul? They all agreed upon a plan to murder Paul.

2. **Council**. The 40 plus men who took an oath to kill Paul and enlisted the chief priests, the elders and the Council to help them kill Paul.

3. **Notify**. They all agreed together to notify the Roman commander that they sought to examine Paul more fully and so bring him down to the Council chambers.

4. **Commander**. They counted upon the Roman commander bringing Paul back down to the Council chambers as part of their plot.

5. **Bring**. They thought that the Roman commander would respond favorably to such a request from the chief priests, the elders and the Council.

6. **Investigation**. Living holy in the family of God means that the chief priest, the elders and the Council all proved themselves to be liars and murderers by claiming they wanted to do further investigation regarding Paul's case, when in fact they just wanted to kill Paul unlawfully.

7. **Slay**. We rejoice today because the plot to kill Paul never came to fruition because God had great plans for Paul going off into the future.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting God to keep us safe according to His will.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that many religious leaders plot together against the family of God and Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that persecuting the family of God amounts to persecuting Jesus Himself.**

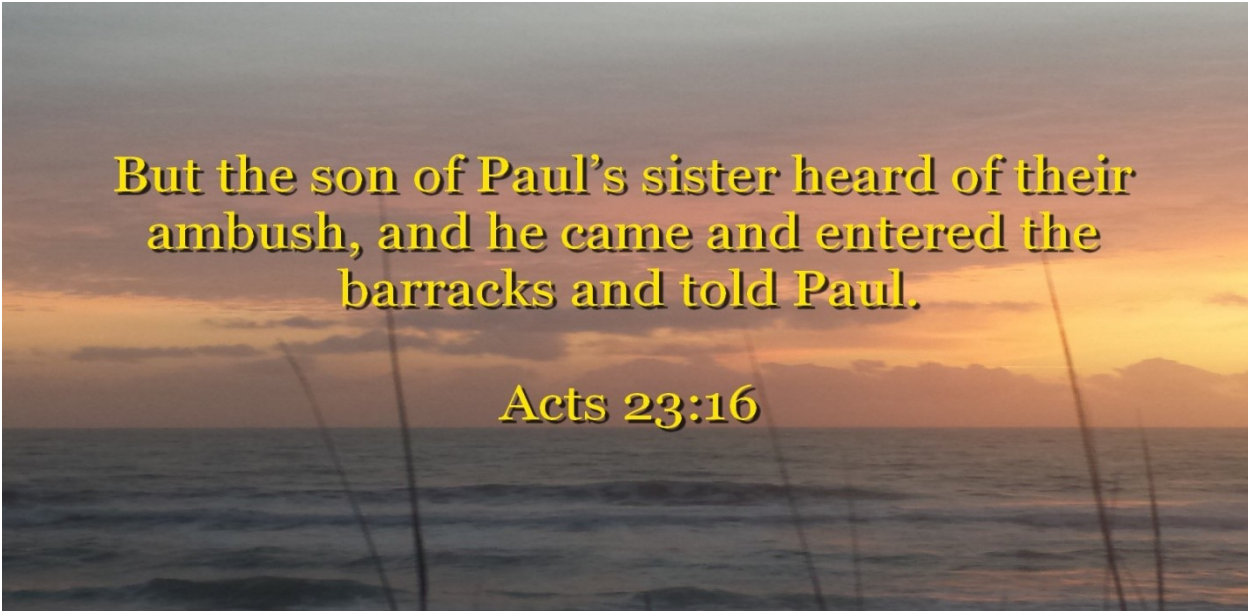
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for delivering Paul from murderous plots against his life on numerous occasions. Will you live holy in the family of God today by putting your life into the hands of God who holds you every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 827

Heard Today



But the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, and he came and entered the barracks and told Paul.

Acts 23:16

How did Paul learn about the plot against his life? The son of Paul's sister heard of the plot and told Paul.

We do not know much about Paul's family, but we do know that he had a sister who had a son. That son provided valuable knowledge to Paul about the Jews' attempts to kill him. They planned to ambush Paul on the way to the Council chamber in Jerusalem. The son of Paul's sister heard about the ambush and communicated that knowledge to Paul.

The next issue concerns what to do with that knowledge. Paul was a Roman citizen and any threats against his life should be taken seriously by the Roman government. Therefore, the Roman commander should take all appropriate steps to protect the life of Paul before trial. While the Jews may have thought the Roman commander would be interested in bringing Paul back before the Council for further proceedings, he would not be interested in participating in an ambush against Paul. If the Roman commander lost a prisoner to such an ambush, his own life may be in jeopardy for having lost

a prisoner in his care. Once again God intervened to help Paul and save his life.

Ambush

1. **Son**. Who helped Paul avoid the ambush? Paul's sister's son came to the barracks and told him about the plot.

2. **Heard**. That young man had heard about the plot and brought word to Paul right away.

3. **Ambush**. The ambush against Paul would certainly have included Roman soldiers guarding him.

4. **Came**. The young men came to see Paul with news of great importance.

5. **Barracks**. The young man entered the barracks, indicating that Paul could still receive visitors.

6. **Told**. Living holy family of God means that God arranged for that young man first to hear the plot, and then tell Paul about the plot.

7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because Paul lived to stand before kings and others in authority to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the people who hear things about the plans of the enemy.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for using friends and relatives to stop evil plans.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the young man stopping the plans of more than 40 men bound under a death oath.**

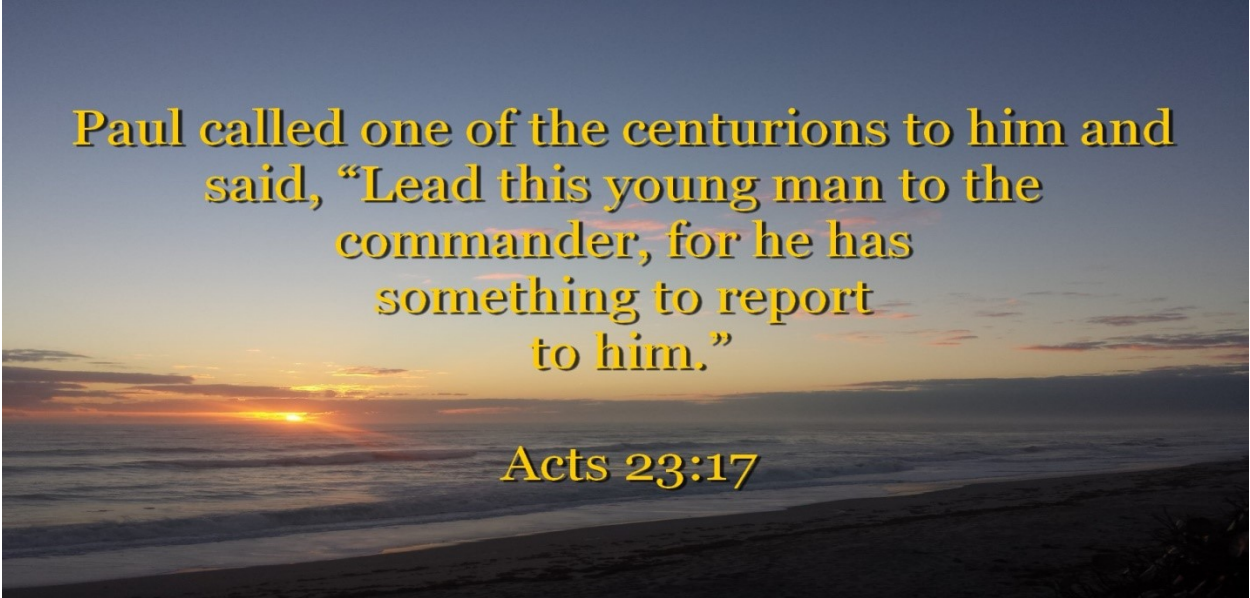
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for faithful young men who frustrate the plans of the chief priests, elders, the Council and more than 40 men all trying to murder Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the young men who stand up against evil plots?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 828

Lead Today



Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, “Lead this young man to the commander, for he has something to report to him.”

Acts 23:17

What did Paul do with this newfound knowledge about the ambush? Paul called one of the centurions and asked for the young man to be taken to the Roman commander.

Paul knew exactly what to do. Instead of him going to the Roman commander with knowledge of the ambush, Paul had the centurion take the young man to the Roman commander. Paul knew the Roman commander would prefer to talk to the eyewitness and evaluate the truthfulness of his testimony. If the Roman commander believed the young man, then Paul was in serious and immediate danger.

God had intervened once again to help Paul. Jesus had personally appeared to Paul and told him to take courage because Paul must testify not only in Jerusalem but also in Rome. Therefore, Paul knew that his trial would continue and go on appeal to Rome. Paul would exercise his right to appeal to Caesar.

Having sent the young man to see the Roman commander, Paul had done everything he could at that point. Now the choice was left with a Roman

commander who would be able to take some action to protect Paul and ensure his safety.

Commander

1. **Paul**. What did Paul do with the young man? Paul called upon one of the centurions to help the young man.

2. **Called**. Having heard the young man's report, Paul knew that the Roman commander needed to talk directly to the young man.

3. **Centurion**. The Roman garrison at Jerusalem was large enough to have several centurions near Paul.

4. **Lead**. Paul intended for the centurion to lead the young man to the Roman commander.

5. **Commander**. Paul knew that the Roman commander would take decisive action when he heard the report of the ambush.

6. **Something**. Living holy in the family of God means that God can use young men to report something very important to save many lives.

7. **Report**. We rejoice today because the young man gave his report to the Roman commander and spared many lives.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the story of the young man stopping an ambush before it ever happened.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for putting the young man at the right place at the right time to learn about the ambush.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the many ways that God saved Paul from physical harm.**

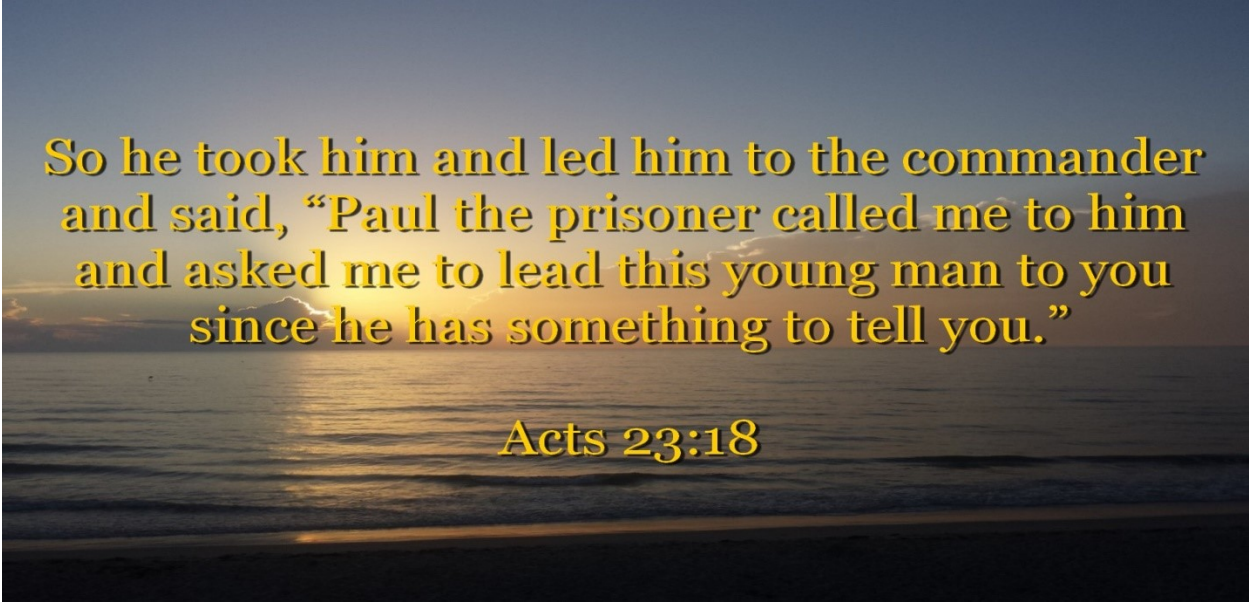
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how God intervenes in so many different ways to protect the family of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the wonderful ways He provides refuge and safety for saints?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 829

Young Man Today



So he took him and led him to the commander and said, “Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to lead this young man to you since he has something to tell you.”

Acts 23:18

What did the centurion tell the Roman commander? The centurion told the Roman commander that Paul told him to bring this boy to you because he has something to tell you.

The Jews had formed the plot to kill Paul. They planned on ambushing Paul before he got to the Council chambers. They conspired with the chief priests and the Council so that the latter would notify the Roman commander that they wanted to re-examine Paul in their chambers. The first meeting with Paul had erupted into great dissension. The Pharisees declared that Paul had done nothing wrong because he may have seen an angel. At any rate, the chambers became so hostile that the Roman commander had to rescue Paul once again from the Jewish mob because they were threatening to tear him apart.

The Jews then were planning on killing Paul before he got back to the chambers. The Jews under the oath would ambush Paul on the way to the chambers. The Jews obviously knew they would have to deal with the Roman soldiers and apparently they planned on killing the soldiers as well.

The son of Paul's sister heard of the plan and reported to Paul. Paul then sent that young man to the Roman commander via the centurion. In turn the centurion took the young man to the Roman commander and he told the Roman commander what he had heard about the ambush.

Tell

1. **So**. What did the centurion do to help Paul? He took the young man to the Roman commander.

2. **Took**. Paul had asked one of the centurions standing by to take the young man straight to the Roman commander.

3. **Commander**. The Roman commander had taken decisive action to save Paul's life on several different occasions.

4. **Paul**. Paul had received the young man and heard his report about the ambush.

5. **Asked**. Then Paul asked one of the centurions to take the young man directly to the Roman commander so that the Roman commander could hear the report and ask any pertinent questions.

6. **Man**. Living holy in the family of God means that the centurion brought the young man to the Roman commander just as Paul had asked him to do.

7. **Tell**. We rejoice today because the centurion told the Roman commander that the young man had something to tell the commander about an ambush that threatened the lives of the soldiers and Paul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the centurion who took the young man straight to the Roman commander.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the chain of people that had to work together to save Paul's life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the other people in the chain of events that stopped the ambush before it ever started.**

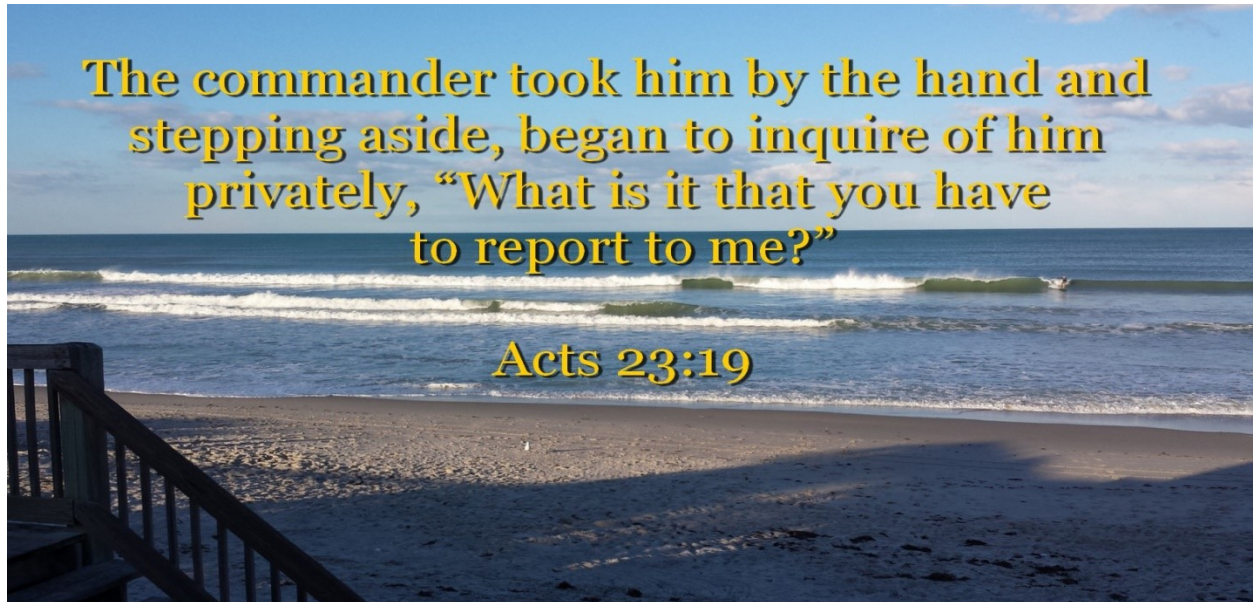
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by appreciating the different people God uses every day to do His will and save lives as they work together. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the young man, the centurion and the Roman commander who worked together to save the life of Paul so that he could fulfill God's plan for his life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 830

Inquire Today



What did the Roman commander ask the young man when he arrived? The Roman commander asked him, "What is it that you have to report to me?"

Paul sent the young man directly to the Roman commander. The Roman commander already knew that Paul was a Roman citizen entitled to the full protection of the law. The Roman commander also knew that he had a duty to protect Paul while he remained in Roman custody.

The Roman commander already had considerable experience with the Jewish mob at this point. He first met Paul when he heard the uproar in the city and found Paul being beaten by the Jewish mob. On the way back to the barracks with Paul in custody and chained, Paul asked the Roman commander if he could address the crowd. The Roman commander agreed and Paul addressed the group from the stairs. The crowd below became so hostile the Roman commander had to carry Paul away with soldiers. The next time Paul appeared before the Jews in their Council chambers, the Jews became bitterly divided against themselves and threatened to tear Paul apart. Once again the Roman commander had to pull Paul out of the crowd

and take him back to the barracks. He was eager to hear what the young man had to say about Paul and the Jews.

Privately

1. **Roman**. How did the Roman commander receive the young man? The Roman commander had a private meeting with the young man.

2. **Hand**. The Roman commander started by taking the young man by the hand.

3. **Stepping**. Then he stepped aside to have a quiet meeting with the young man.

4. **Privately**. He took the boy away privately.

5. **What**. Having achieved some privacy, the Roman commander asked the young men what he had to say.

6. **Report**. Living holy in the family of God means that we appreciate the Roman commander who took steps to ensure the safety of the young man, his soldiers, and Paul.

7. **Me**. We rejoice today because of the kindness of the Roman commander towards the young man in taking him by the hand and talking to him privately and asking him what he had to say.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by appreciating the care the Roman commander took with the young man by holding his hand.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the Roman commander stepping aside to have a private conversation with the young man.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for men in power who take special care of young men reporting to them.**

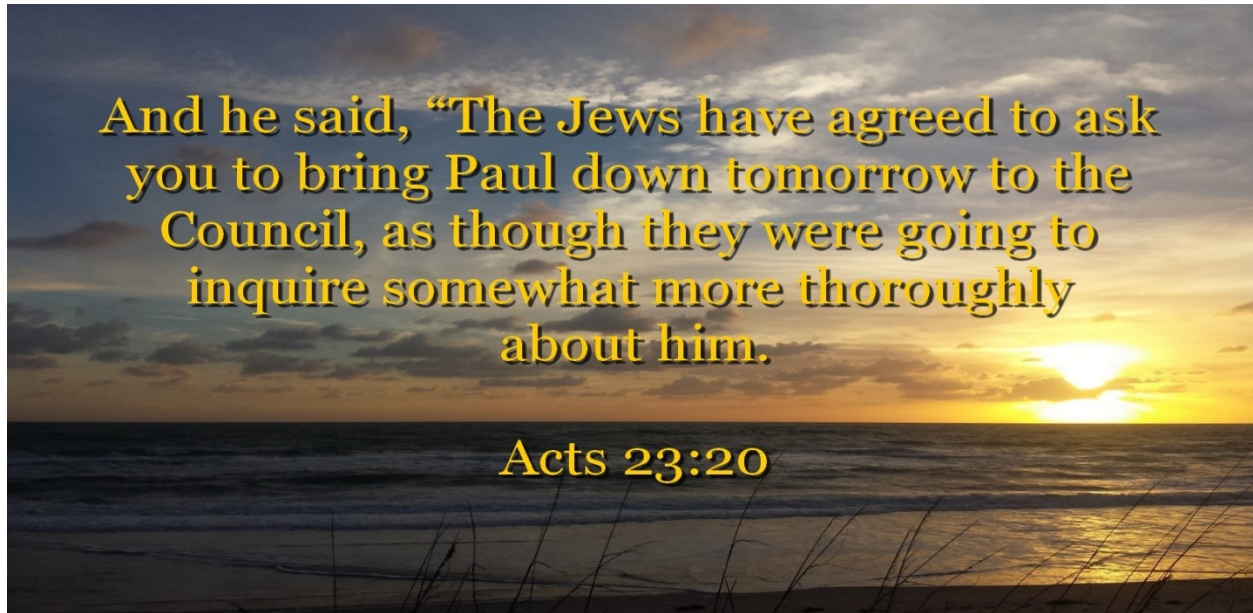
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Roman commander taking the young man by the hand. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking special care of children God sends your way?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 831

Tomorrow Today



What did the young man tell the Roman commander? The young man told him about the Jews pretending to want to hear more from Paul the next day.

The son of Paul's sister heard about the Jewish plot to kill Paul by ambush. He brought that news to the barracks where he told Paul. Paul then asked one of the centurions to take that boy to the Roman commander. The Roman commander then took the young man by the hand and moved him aside to a private conversation. He then asked the young man what he had heard.

The young man explained the Jewish plot to the Roman commander. The plot would start the next day with a request from the Council to bring Paul down for further examination. The Jews had already agreed among themselves to carry out this plot. Of course, they did not want to examine Paul the next day, they wanted to kill him. They planned an ambush for Paul before he ever got to the Council chambers. Such an attack would also include an attack upon the soldiers guarding Paul. The Jews in the original

conspiracy had bound themselves under an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. They meant to kill Paul and were quite serious about it.

Inquire

1. **He**. What did the young man tell the Roman commander about the conspiracy? The young man told the Roman commander that the Jews had agreed upon a plan to kill Paul.

2. **Jews**. The Jews had already examined Paul once before their Council, but that first appearance ended with great dissension.

3. **Agreed**. The Jews had agreed among themselves to lure Paul out of the barracks.

4. **Ask**. They would ask the Roman commander to bring Paul back to the Council for further examination.

5. **Bring**. The whole plan to kill Paul hinged upon that request for the Roman commander to bring Paul back to the Council.

6. **Council**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews planned to kill Paul before he appeared before their council and their plan became known to the Roman commander by the grace of God, sparing the life of Paul and some soldiers.

7. **Inquire**. We rejoice today because the pretext of seeking to inquire further about Paul never came to fruition because a Roman commander learned of their entire plot before he agreed to anything with the Jews.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for exposing the plot against Paul to the Roman commander.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how God puts a pair of ears at just the right place and at the just the right time to protect His family.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the Roman commander saving the life of Paul.**

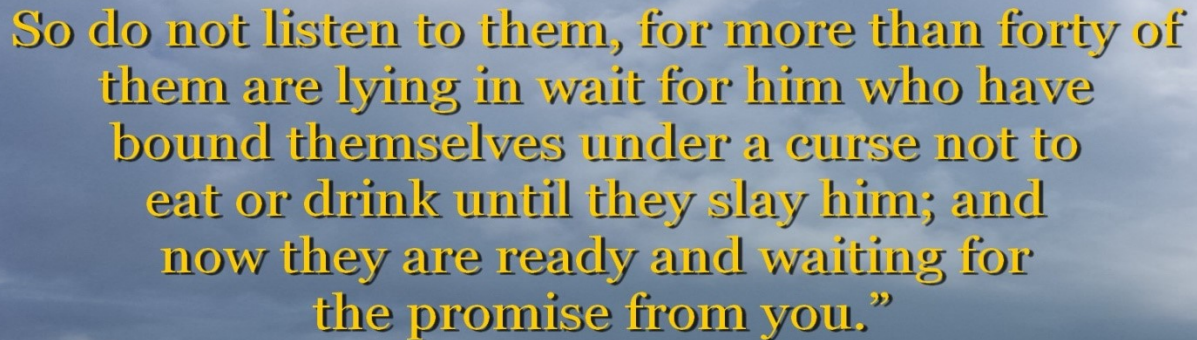
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that the schemes of men never overpower the plans of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God to fulfill all His prophecies, such as the one He gave to Paul that he would testify in Rome?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 832

Curse Today



So do not listen to them, for more than forty of them are lying in wait for him who have bound themselves under a curse not to eat or drink until they slay him; and now they are ready and waiting for the promise from you.”

Acts 23:21

What else did the young man tell the Roman commander about the Jewish plot? The young man explained that more than 40 of them were lying in wait for Paul.

The son of Paul's sister had heard about a Jewish plot to kill Paul. Paul had sent that young man to talk to the Roman commander. The young men explained several key facts about the conspiracy to kill Paul by ambush.

The plot would start with a seemingly harmless request for the Roman commander to bring Paul back down to the Council chambers for further examination. Actually, the chief priests and the elders in the Council had all agreed together on a plot to kill Paul before he got to the Council chambers. Originally more than 40 men had bound themselves under an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. Those 40 plus men enlisted the aid of all the Jewish leaders who also agreed. But, in order to kill Paul, those 40 men would have to also overcome the soldiers guarding Paul. Therefore, soldiers were at risk of losing their lives too. The young man explained further

that the whole plot was hinging upon a promise from the Roman commander to bring Paul down to the Council chambers.

Ready

1. **Listen**. What warning did the young man give to the Roman commander? The young man warned the Roman commander not to listen to the Jews.

2. **Forty**. He explained that more than 40 of them had bound themselves under an oath to kill Paul and to not eat or drink until they had done so.

3. **Lying**. More than 40 Jews were lying in wait for Paul to come towards the Council chambers.

4. **Bound**. Because of their oath, they were very seriously bound to try and kill Paul.

5. **Slay**. For those 40 plus men, they had sworn to slay Paul before they were to eat or drink again.

6. **Waiting**. Living holy in the family of God means that the young man told the Roman commander that the entire plan of the Jews was waiting for the Roman commander to accept their proposal to bring Paul to the chamber for further examination.

7. **Promise**. We rejoice today because the Roman commander never promised to take Paul down to the Council chambers one more time.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by heeding the warnings that God gives you along the way.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by recognizing that God can warn us from the lips of a young man or anyone else he sends to us as a messenger.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for exposing plots and providing solutions.**

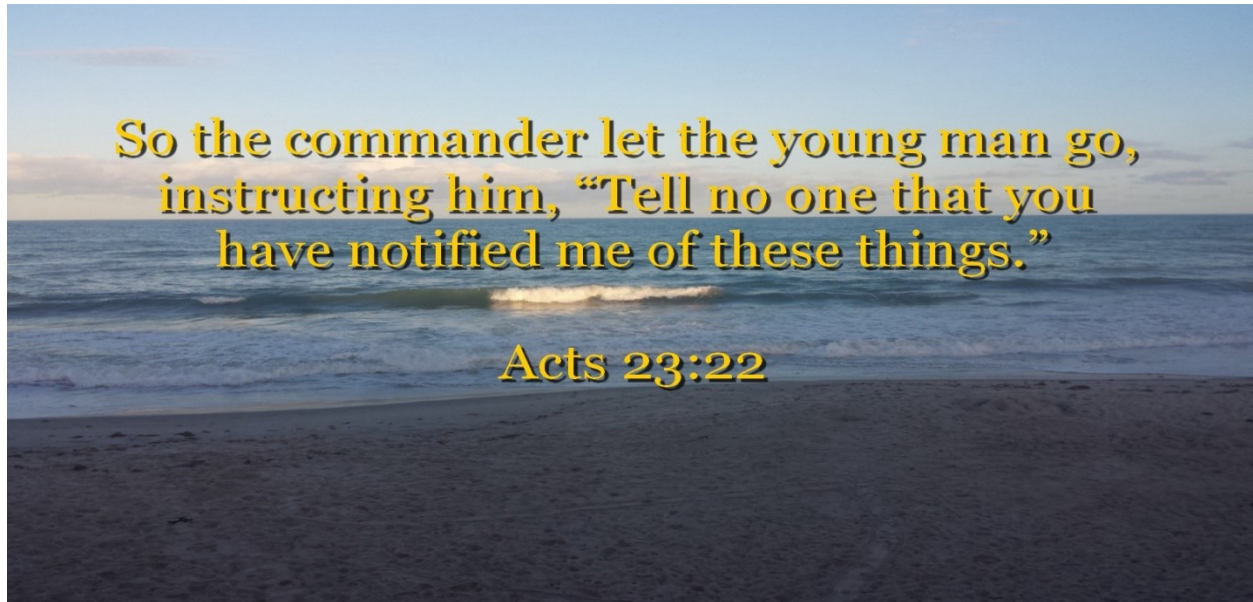
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to the messengers God sends us to save lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by carefully listening to messengers God sends your way?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 833

Instructing Today



What did the Roman commander do with the young man? The Roman commander let the young man go, instructing him to tell no one about the things they had spoken about.

Single-handedly, the young man had thwarted the plan of ambush by the Jews. By delivering the news about the ambush to the Roman commander, the Roman commander gained time to secure Paul and avoid the ambush.

The Roman commander also learned about the conspiracy among the chief priest, the elders, the Council and more than 40 men all conspiring together to kill Paul, and Roman soldiers as necessary. Now the Roman commander knew for sure that Paul could no longer be kept in Jerusalem. The Jews were continually scheming to find a way to kill Paul. The Roman commander could not guarantee the safety of Paul by letting him stay in Jerusalem.

The Roman commander needed to figure out a way to keep Paul safe and get him out of the city. Paul needed to be taken away from Jerusalem

and to more secure quarters elsewhere, hopefully with a larger Roman garrison.

Notified

1. **So**. What did the Roman commander instruct the young man to do? He instructed the young man to tell no one about these things.

2. **Commander**. The Roman commander had gained an advantage and wanted to keep it a secret.

3. **Go**. The Roman commander let the young man go.

5. **Instructing**. As the Roman commander let the young man go, he was instructing him to tell no one about their conversation or what he knew about the Jewish plot.

6. **No**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Roman commander appreciated the young man coming and telling him about the plot, but he wanted to be sure the young man understood that he should tell no one else.

7. **Notified**. We rejoice today because the young man notified the Roman commander of the plot, so that the Roman commander could avoid the ambush by taking immediate action.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by acting quickly when circumstances warrant.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He delivers His children from harm, at times, by warning people to keep secrets.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following Jesus as He leads us along safe paths and away from danger.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the messengers He sends to protect us from evil. Will you live holy in the family of God today by keeping secrets as required for safety?

HALLELUJAH!

8

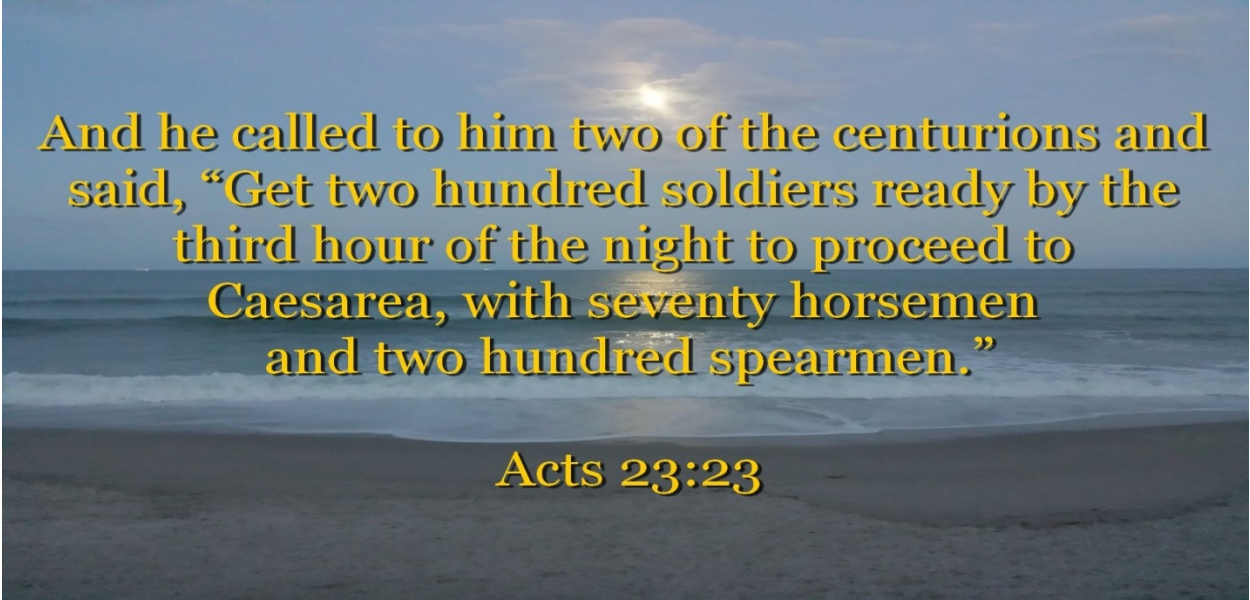
Flight to Caesarea Today

The Roman commander, having learned of the conspiracy to kill Paul, sent Paul to Caesarea accompanied by 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen. Claudius Lysias, the Roman commander, also provided a letter to Felix concerning Paul and the religious charges against him. Claudius Lysias study found no charges worthy of death or imprisonment for Paul. He sent Paul to Caesarea because of the plot by the Jews to kill him.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 834

Soldiers Today



And he called to him two of the centurions and said, “Get two hundred soldiers ready by the third hour of the night to proceed to Caesarea, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen.”

Acts 23:23

What did the Roman commander do first? The Roman commander first mobilized his forces.

The Roman commander called two of his centurions. He instructed them to get 200 soldiers ready by the third hour of the night to proceed to Caesarea. He also ordered that 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen accompany the group to Caesarea. Altogether, 470 soldiers would accompany Paul to Caesarea. The Roman commander had expected to fend off an ambush at any point.

The Roman commander once again moved to protect Paul. So long as the Roman commander was responsible for the safety of Paul, a Roman citizen, the Roman commander had to take all appropriate steps to safeguard Paul. Paul needed to get out of Jerusalem safely, but the Jews were already plotting an ambush. No one knew for sure just when and where that ambush would take place, so the Roman commander dispatched well-armed soldiers to escort Paul to Caesarea. Paul was moving away from trial in Jerusalem before the Jewish Council and further into the Roman system of justice. The Roman courts would be open in Caesarea and Paul could be tried there. Of

course, the Roman commander never ascertained what charges to bring against Paul.

Horsemen

1. **He**. What action did the Roman commander take to safeguard Paul? He assembled the soldiers quickly.

2. **Called**. The Roman commander called his officers to him.

3. **Centurions**. He summoned two centurions.

4. **Soldiers**. Those two centurions were to get ready two hundred soldiers to move quickly.

5. **Third**. By the third hour of the night, all the soldiers had to be ready to march.

6. **Caesarea**. Living holy in the family of God means that God was moving Paul to Caesarea under Roman guard.

7. **Horsemen**. We rejoice today because God used the Roman commander to provide an escort for Paul to get the Caesarea safely, consisting of 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the military escort He provided to Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His plans to move Paul from danger in Jerusalem to relative safety in Caesarea.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God has more resources at His disposal than we can possibly comprehend.**

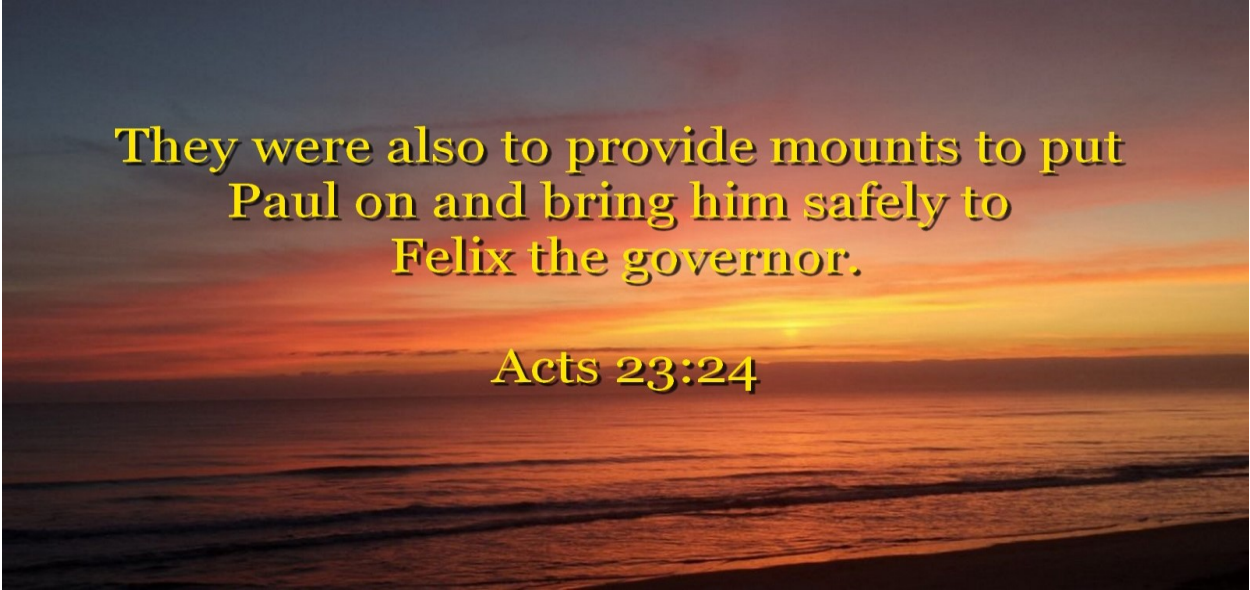
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for all the missionaries and daily ministers for Christ He protects each day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God with great thanksgiving for the blessings of His care each day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 835

Provide Today



They were also to provide mounts to put
Paul on and bring him safely to
Felix the governor.

Acts 23:24

Where were the Roman soldiers taking Paul? They were taking Paul to Felix the governor at Caesarea.

The Jewish Council, high priests, elders and more than 40 men had formed a conspiracy to kill Paul. They planned on ambushing him under the pretext of calling for him to reappear at the Council chambers in Jerusalem. They planned to kill Paul while he was being brought to the Council chambers.

When the Roman commander learned of the plot, he gathered over 450 soldiers and took Paul down to Caesarea. Felix the governor sat in Caesarea. Not only could Paul receive a trial there, but the security would be much better without a city full of very angry Jews looking for any opportunity to kill Paul or overrun the barracks.

The Roman commander saw an opportunity to get Paul out of his barracks so that he would no longer be responsible for his welfare and physical safety. The Roman commander readied mounts to put Paul on and

bring him to Felix the Governor in Caesarea. The Roman commander would be happy to send Paul to the Roman garrison in Caesarea.

Safely

1. **Provide**. What else where the soldiers supposed to provide for Paul? They were to provide horses for him to ride.

2. **Mounts**. The soldiers provided mounts for Paul to ensure a quick trip to Caesarea.

3. **Paul**. Paul was a target of a Jewish plot to kill him by ambush in Jerusalem.

4. **Bring**. The Roman soldiers were ordered to bring Paul to safety at Caesarea.

5. **Safely**. The Roman soldiers had to avoid a Jewish ambush in Jerusalem and also provide protection all the way to Caesarea.

6. **Felix**. Living holy in the family of God means that Felix the Governor would also hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ from Paul.

7. **Governor**. We rejoice today because Jesus had a plan to use Paul to testify of Jesus and His great love to Roman governors and other authorities.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by enjoying the protection that the government may provide to keep us safe.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God established governments for the purpose of maintaining order and bearing the sword against evil.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for continuing the ministry of Paul to many people in positions of authority.**

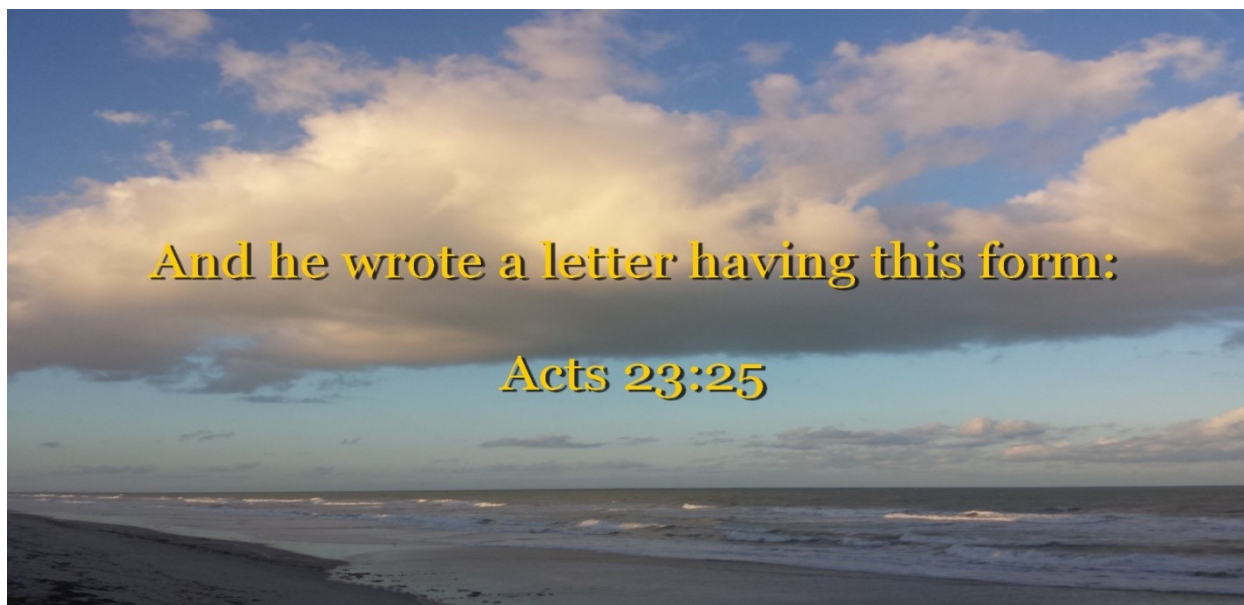
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for governments that protect the rights of Christians. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying that the government will allow Christians to live a quiet life without government interference?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 836

Wrote Today



What did the Roman commander write? He wrote a letter to Felix the governor.

The Roman commander first met Paul during an uproar of the Jews in the city of Jerusalem. He and his soldiers charged into the crowd and rescued Paul from a beating the Jews were giving to him. They put two chains on Paul and took him away to the barracks. The Roman commander wanted to know what charges the Jews had against Paul but the crowd was completely out of control and he was unable to learn anything.

The Roman commander also had to rescue Paul again when the Jews tried to tear him to pieces in his defense before the Jewish Council. He took Paul back to the barracks once again. While Paul was being held in the barracks, the Roman commander received a report that more than 40 Jews were under oath to kill Paul and the Council, the elders, the chief priests and others were all in a conspiracy to kill Paul under ambush on his way to the Council chambers.

The Roman commander then gathered more than 450 soldiers and brought Paul to Caesarea. Because Paul was a Roman citizen, the soldiers had to be careful in handling him. He had the bring charges against Paul, but he really had no facts to support those charges. Therefore, he drafted a letter to Felix the governor concerning Paul and his custody.

Letter

1. **He**. Why did Claudius Lysias write a letter? He needed to formally introduce Paul to the Roman governor at Caesarea.

2. **Wrote**. He wrote to Felix, the Roman governor at Caesarea, who would now take charge of Paul.

3. **A**. Felix only wrote one letter and so he had to make it count.

4. **Letter**. He drafted a letter about Paul and the charges against him brought by the Jews.

5. **Having**. God inspired Luke to give us the contents of that letter.

6. **This**. Living holy in the family of God means that God preserved the contents of this letter drafted by Claudius Lysias which provides keen insight into how the Roman penal system worked and how it treated the accused Roman citizens.

7. **Form**. We rejoice today because we know both the form and content of the letter which God deemed important enough to preserve in the Bible.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the historical details in precise accounts recorded in the Bible.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that details matter in the Bible.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by seeing the care that Luke took in compiling his account for God about the life and times of Paul.**

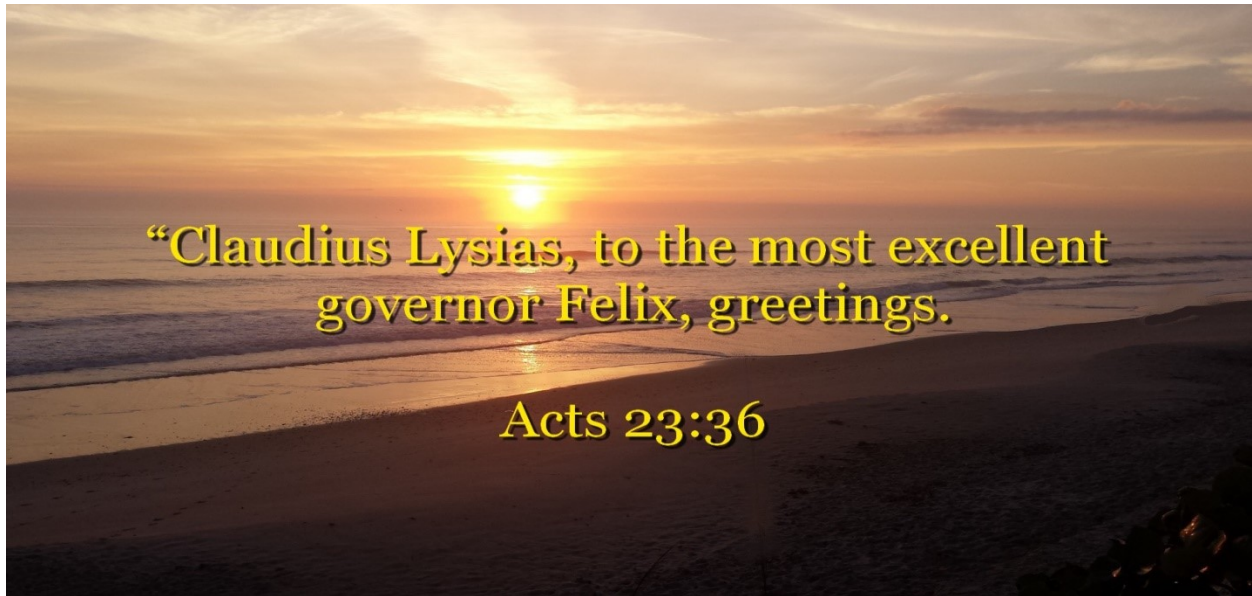
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that the Bible provides accurate historical details about Paul and his life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the accuracy of the Bible and the historical details contained therein?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 837

Claudius Today



What was the name of the Roman commander? He was named Claudius Lysias.

Claudius Lysias wrote a letter to the Roman governor at Caesarea named Felix. Like any good Roman citizen writing a letter to a superior in the Roman government, Claudius Lysias named himself and the recipient at the beginning of the letter.

Claudius Lysias had sent Paul under heavy guard to Caesarea where Felix resided in the governor's office. He had to say something to Felix about the charges against Paul and the reason for holding him in custody. Although he had to say something about Paul and his custody, he had very little information about Paul and virtually nothing about the charges against him.

Jesus had told Paul that he would appear not only in Jerusalem as the witness of Jesus Christ before governors and people in authority, but Jesus also told Paul that he would be His witness in Rome. Paul knew about Roman appeals and knew the final appeal was always to Caesar himself. Paul

understood from Jesus the future laid before him as a witness of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

Felix

1. **Claudius**. How did Claudius Lysias address the Roman governor? He addressed him as “most excellent governor”.

2. **Lysias**. Claudius Lysias provided Felix the governor with a brief summary about Paul the prisoner.

3. **Most**. He used a high title to greet the governor.

4. **Excellent**. In fact, Claudius Lysias use the superlative, Most Excellent.

5. **Governor**. He wanted to use very formal terms because this proceeding with Paul was very formal.

6. **Felix**. Living holy in the family of God means that we praise God that the Roman commander provided a brief formal note to the governor and God recorded that note for future generations.

7. **Greetings**. We rejoice today because we have historical proof, with names, of the greetings a Roman commander gave to a Roman governor concerning Paul the apostle.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the historical details He provided in the Book of Acts.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Romans gave each other high titles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God He is not partial to any and we avoid titles in the church in greeting one another.**

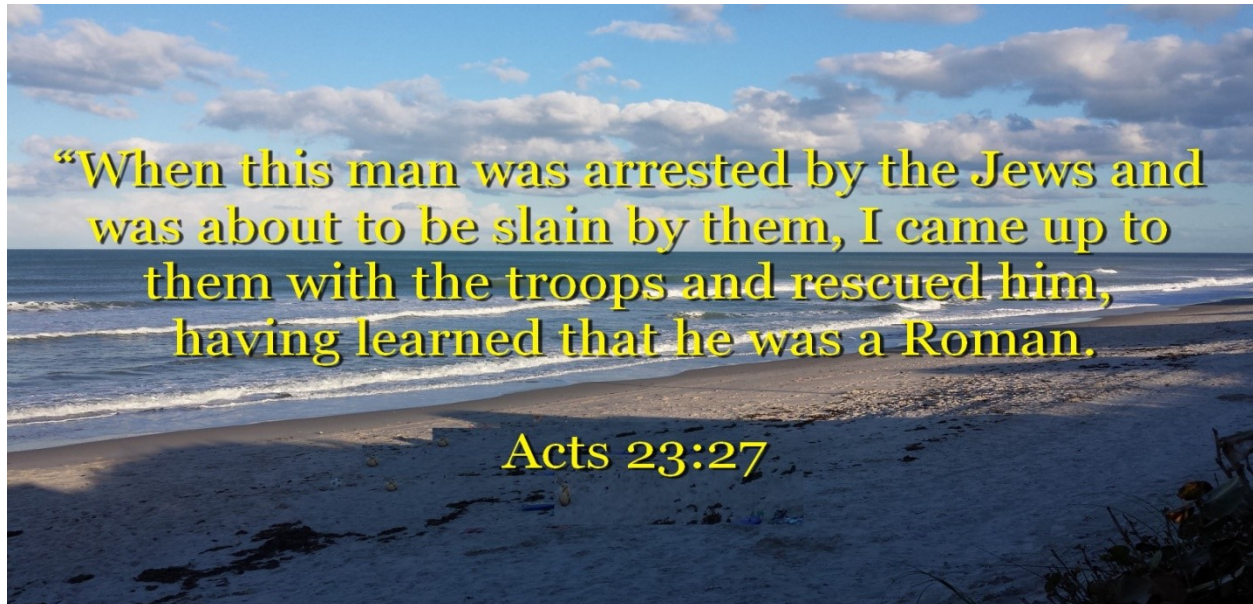
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the details He provided about Roman traditions and greetings. Will you live holy in the family of God today by appreciating the level of detail God provided for us about the life and times of Paul the apostle, including the details of the letter Claudius Lysias sent to Felix the governor?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 838

Arrested Today



What did Claudius Lysias tell Felix about Paul? He told Felix that he rescued Paul from the Jews.

Like many people filing reports with their government superiors, Claudius Lysias shaded the facts to make himself look the hero. He said that the Jews were about to kill Paul after arresting him. He then reported that he rescued Paul, having learned that he was a Roman. He never mentioned putting two chains on Paul or stretching him out on thongs to examine him by scourging.

Paul was now headed to trial in Caesarea. Felix the governor would conduct the trial and Paul would be held in custody until the trial. The accusers would be the Jews from Jerusalem. They could bring religious charges against Paul and perhaps even secular charges. They could not bring reliable witnesses against Paul because none existed.

Paul was a witness of the resurrected Christ. He first met Jesus on the Damascus Road and shortly thereafter began proclaiming Christ in

synagogues. Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ and Paul made Him known everywhere he went.

Rescued

1. **Man**. Did Claudius Lysias leave out any important details in his letter to Governor Felix? He did not mention his own violations of Roman law.

2. **Arrested**. He described how Paul was arrested by the Jewish authorities.

3. **Slain**. According the Claudius Lysias, Paul was about to be slain by the Jews.

4. **Came**. Then Claudius Lysias came to the rescue of Paul.

5. **Troops**. He brought his troops and took Paul away from the Jews.

6. **Rescued**. Living holy in the family of God means that Claudius Lysias described himself as the person who rescued Paul, but never mentioned the chains that he put upon Paul or that he was prepared to examine him by scourging.

7. **Roman**. We rejoice today because Paul had certain Roman rights as a citizen that helped him on many occasions as he traveled and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that Claudius Lysias rescued Paul from the Jews more than once.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for Romans who saved Paul from the Jews and their evil plans.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying for the government and people in charge that they would fulfill their government obligations in justice while leaving the Christians alone.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God moves the hearts of people in authority. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul standing before Jewish, Roman and Gentile authorities in many places while testifying to the Lord Jesus as the Risen Savior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 839

Charge Today



What did Claudius Lysias say regarding the Council? He told Felix that he brought him to their counsel to ascertain the charge of which they were accusing Paul.

As Claudius Lysias penned his letter to Felix the governor at Caesarea, he briefly recounted his experience with Paul. He explained that he wanted to ascertain the charge against Paul brought by the Jews. Therefore, Claudius Lysias brought Paul down to the Jewish Council.

As Claudius Lysias wrote the letter to Felix, he still had no idea what the charges were that the Jews brought against Paul. He was not an expert on Jewish Law and did not comprehend the division between the Pharisees and the Sadducees regarding resurrection, angels and spirits. He did know though that the entire Jewish Council erupted with great dissension and they tried to tear Paul apart.

Paul remained in custody at Caesarea. Claudius Lysias could not formulate charges against Paul, and so Paul had no clear means of being

released from custody anytime soon. The immediate threat of ambush by the Jews had been relieved.

Accusing

1. **Wanting**. What were the charges against Paul? The Roman commander tried to find out about the charges, but was unsuccessful.

2. **Ascertain**. He knew the Jews had some charge against Paul and thought he could ascertain it.

3. **Charge**. He hoped that he could learn precisely what charge the Jews had against Paul which caused such an uproar in Jerusalem.

4. **Accusing**. The Jews had been violently accusing Paul and tried to kill him on more than one occasion.

5. **Brought**. He brought Paul down to the Council to hear the charges against him.

6. **Him**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews hated Paul and tried to kill him more than once.

7. **Council**. We rejoice today because Paul presented his defense to the Council and testified to his conversion after meeting the Lord Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by delighting in God's power to deliver people from false charges.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the Roman commander trying to ascertain the charge against Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews flying into an uproar at the Council meeting with Paul.**

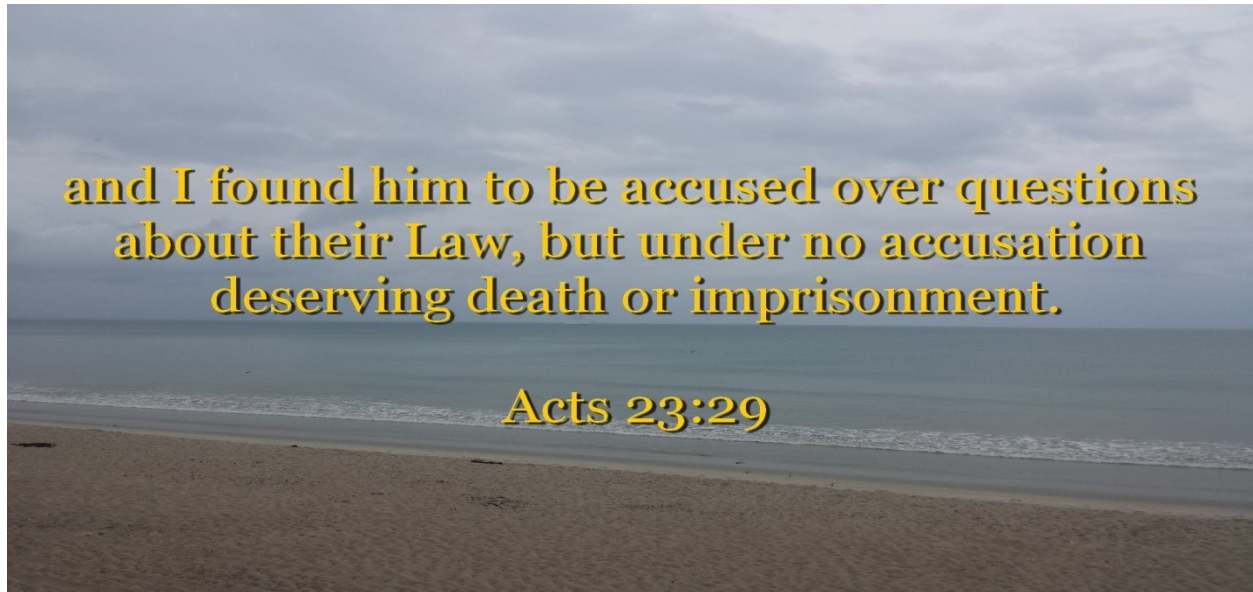
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for getting Paul safely to Caesarea, even if the Roman commander did not know the charge the Jews had against Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the Roman commander trying to find out the charge against Paul, but having trouble finding out because the Council had a hard time agreeing upon any charge?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 840

Accused Today



What was the conclusion of Claudius Lysias? He concluded that Paul had been accused about Jewish Law.

As Claudius Lysias wrote Governor Felix at Caesarea, he communicated that Paul had been accused by the Jews about matters of Jewish Law. Based upon his entire interaction with the Jews and with Paul, Claudius Lysias concluded that Paul was under no accusation deserving death or imprisonment.

Even so Claudius Lysias had kept Paul under guard and in custody. Seeking to keep the peace with the Jewish population, Claudius Lysias had given the Jews more than one opportunity to bring charges against Paul. When he found out, however, that they intended ambush Paul and kill him, Claudius Lysias understood that Paul was no longer safe in Jerusalem.

The Lord Jesus Christ had met with Paul personally, standing by him. The Lord Jesus promised Paul that he would be His witness both in Jerusalem and in Rome. Although Paul did not know all the details, he understood that his future involved testimony in court for the Lord Jesus

Christ before very powerful Roman authorities. God had chosen Paul to bear His Name to those Roman authorities.

Their Law

1. **I**. What charges were brought against Paul by the Jews? The Roman commander said: I found Paul accused over religious questions.

2. **Found**. The Roman commander took Paul to the Council so that they could bring charges against him.

3. **Accused**. Paul was accused by the Council over questions about their Law.

4. **Questions**. Those questions were not civil in nature, but religious.

5. **Law**. The law at issue was not Roman law, but the Law of Moses.

6. **Death**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Roman commander did not find Paul accused of anything worthy of death.

7. **Imprisonment**. We rejoice today because the Roman commander did not find Paul accused of anything worthy of imprisonment either.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Roman commander acknowledging that Paul had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the Roman commander who gave a fair assessment of the charges against Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to help us weather the storm of false charges brought against saints.**

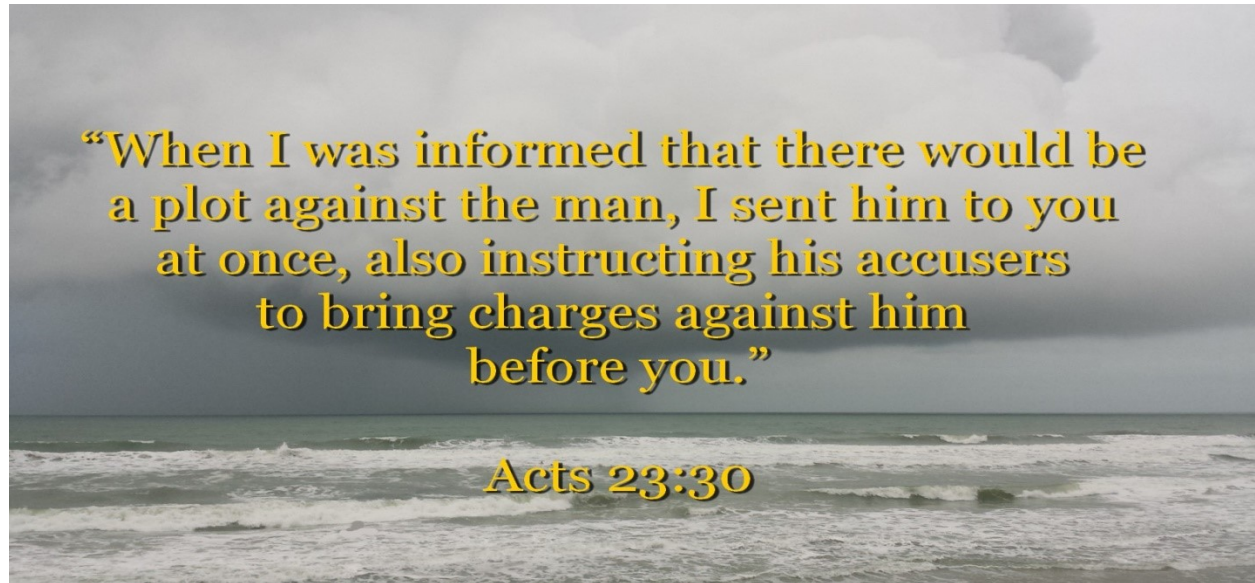
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for all the protection He gives to the children of God when they face false charges. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for people who have been falsely charged of crimes against God when they have done nothing wrong?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 841

Informed Today



What did Claudius Lysias report to Felix about the plot against Paul? He said that he was informed about a plot against Paul.

More than 40 Jews put themselves under an oath to not taste food or drink until they had killed Paul. The son of Paul’s sister heard of the plot and reported it to Paul in the barracks. Paul sent the young man to the Roman commander to make the report in person.

When the Roman commander heard the report, he immediately sent Paul to Caesarea with more than 450 soldiers escorting him. He said that he also instructed the accusers to bring charges against Paul before Felix in Caesarea.

The Roman commander was extremely selective about what information he communicated to Felix. He chose the information that put him in the best light and excluded the crimes he had committed against Paul. Paul was now sent to Felix the governor in Caesarea and must await trial there before the governor, with the Jews bringing charges against him.

God had prophesied that Paul would stand before people in authority and testify of the Lord Jesus Christ. That prophecy was coming true as Paul journeyed through the Roman legal system.

Plot

1. **When**. How did the Roman commander explain why he sent Paul to Governor Felix? The Roman commander said the plot had been formed against Paul, necessitating moving him to Caesarea.

2. **Informed**. He was informed about the plot from a young man who overheard the Jews planning to kill Paul.

3. **Plot**. The young man gave the details of the plot and the pretext of calling Paul back before the Council.

4. **Sent**. Having heard about the plot, he sent Paul immediately to Caesarea.

5. **You**. The Roman commander wrote that he sent Paul to you, referring to Governor Felix.

6. **Accusers**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Roman commander provided the Jews an opportunity to go to Caesarea and have a trial against Paul and his accusers could appear there before Felix the governor.

7. **Charges**. We rejoice today because Paul was safely out of Jerusalem, but still in Roman custody awaiting trial.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul was delivered from the plot in Jerusalem to kill him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for His speedy deliverance in taking Paul out of Jerusalem at just the right time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His careful ways and timely rescues.**

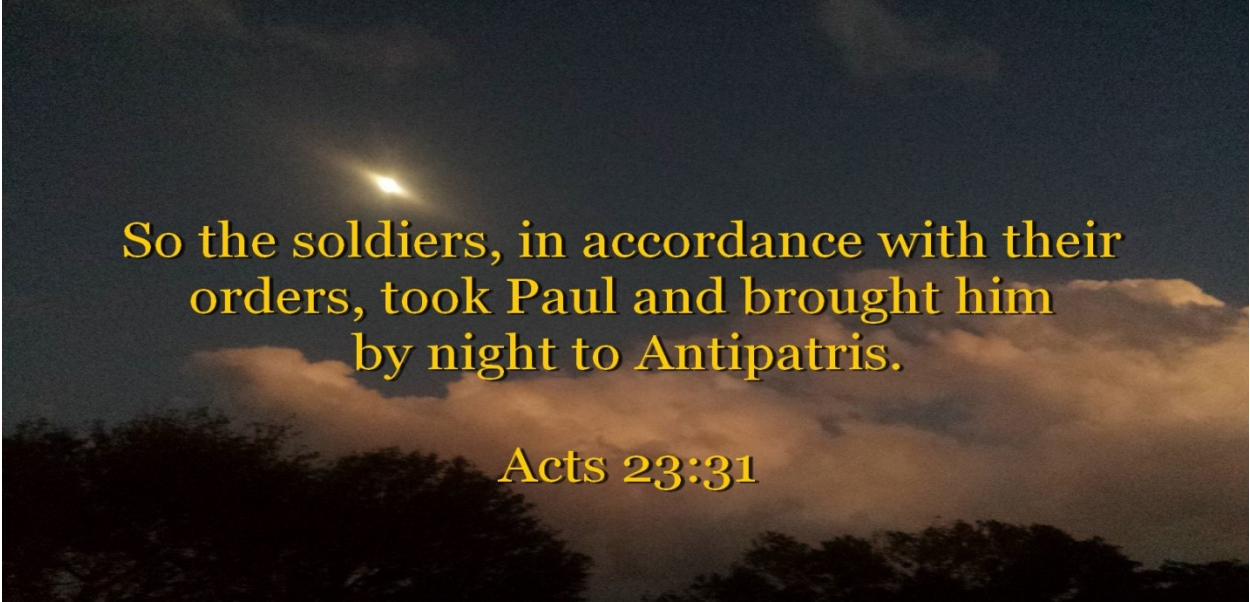
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that he rescued Paul, leaving more than 40 men under an oath to kill Paul that they could not keep. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to rescue you one way or another at just the right time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 842

Soldiers Today



So the soldiers, in accordance with their orders, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.

Acts 23:31

Where did the soldiers take Paul? They took him to Antipatris.

Antipatris was a city built by Herod the Great in honor of his father, Antipater. It lay about 30 miles from Caesarea and provided a resting spot for the soldiers. They had left Jerusalem at night and reached Antipatris. Because the distance from Jerusalem to Caesarea was about 40 miles, they may not have reached that place on the same night.

The soldiers were following orders. The Roman commander had issued orders for Paul to be taken to Caesarea. He also provided over 450 soldiers to escort Paul safely to his destination. Of course, those soldiers would also provide a rearguard against anyone trying to follow them from Jerusalem to attack Paul. Therefore, the foot soldiers slowed down the horsemen, but with spears and armor provided a moving wall of protection against attack.

Luke recorded many fine details about the journeys of Paul around the Mediterranean world. Stopping at Antipatris followed Luke's usual custom of documenting the steps on the route. He also noted that they arrived at night. The soldiers had left Jerusalem on the third hour of the night.

Night

1. **So**. Where was Antipatris? It was about 30 miles from Jerusalem on the way to Caesarea.
2. **Soldiers**. The Roman commander and ordered the soldiers to take Paul to Caesarea because things had gotten too hot for him in Jerusalem.
3. **Accordance**. The soldiers then operated according to the orders that the Roman commander had given them.
4. **Orders**. Those orders included keeping Paul safe along the way.
5. **Brought**. The soldiers brought Paul with them to the city Herod had built in memory of his father Antipater, naming that city Antipatris.
6. **Antipatris**. Living holy in the family of God means that the soldiers rested at Antipatris on the way to Caesarea.
7. **Night**. We rejoice today because the Roman commander acted urgently and got Paul out of Jerusalem the same night he heard about the plot to kill Paul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the details that Luke included on the travel from Jerusalem to Caesarea.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to rest, just as the soldiers urgently moving Paul took time to rest at Antipatris.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking time to take needed rest and make further plans.**

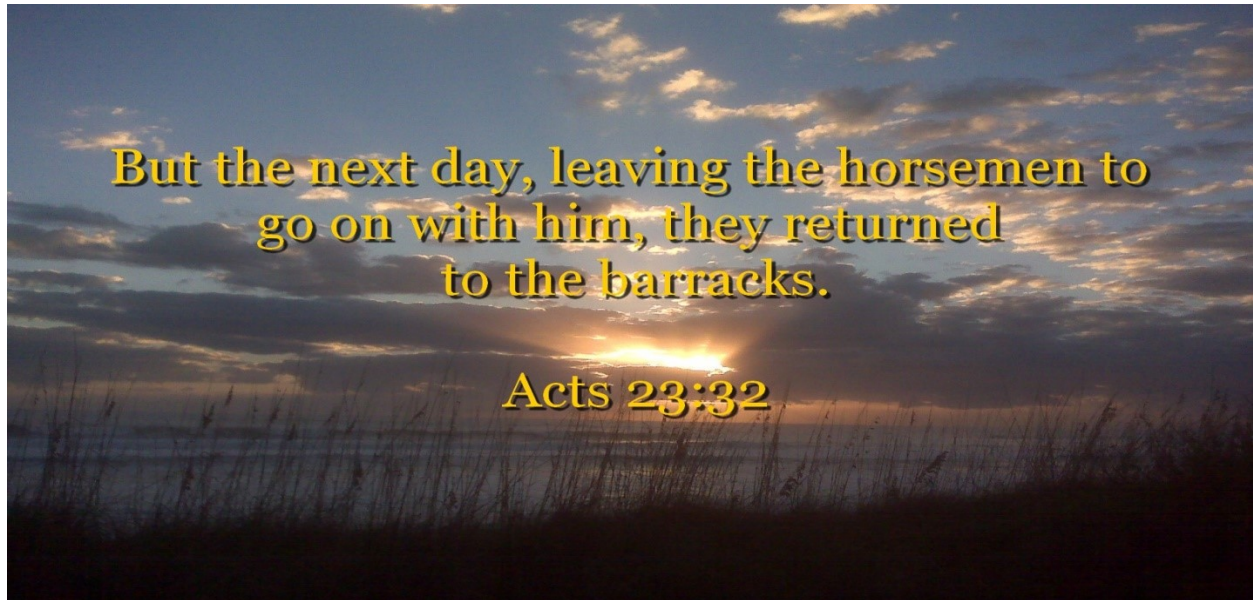
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that even in times of study and urgent travel, taking time to rest and regroup often makes sense. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking needed time to stop over for rest as you journey towards the goal?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 843

Leaving Today



What happened at Antipatris? The foot soldiers return to their barracks in Jerusalem.

Because the horsemen traveled more quickly than the foot soldiers, they left for Caesarea without the footmen. The horsemen may well reach Caesarea within a day or so. Furthermore, the foot soldiers would provide a rearguard of protection against anybody coming along that road to catch Paul and company. Moving quickly on horseback toward Caesarea would also put them out of harm's way.

The Roman commander had ordered the party of soldiers to take swift action to get Paul to Caesarea. He understood the plot of the Jews and their plan of ambush upon Paul. With over 450 soldiers guarding Paul on the way to Caesarea, the Jews would have had a hard time killing Paul. When the soldiers determined that Paul was most likely out of danger if he rode away quickly to Caesarea, they returned to Jerusalem. The Jews may have grown restless once they learned that the Roman soldiers had escorted Paul away and they were still bound under their death oath to kill him. Jewish unrest

in the city had already turned into a riot once and might do so again, requiring the presence of many soldiers to put it to rest.

Returned

1. **Next**. What happened at Antipatris? The Roman soldiers divided into two groups.

2. **Day**. Having arrived at night, they decided to leave the next day.

3. **Leaving**. Leaving the foot soldiers behind, the horsemen took Paul on to Caesarea immediately, making better time without the soldiers marching with them.

4. **Horsemen**. The horsemen could travel much faster without the foot soldiers.

5. **Go**. After they left for Caesarea, the horsemen were free to go to Caesarea more quickly.

6. **Returned**. Living holy in the family of God means that the foot soldiers returned to Jerusalem where they would be ready for further service as needed, have been accomplishing their task of providing safe passage for Paul.

7. **Barracks**. We rejoice today because the Roman barracks at Jerusalem will be remembered as a place that Paul spent time awaiting trial and proclaiming Christ from the stairs.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering places for their spiritual significance in the Bible.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He included the details of Paul's journey from Jerusalem to Caesarea.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how the soldiers divided their forces so that they could travel more quickly and so get Paul to Caesarea and safety.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by planning trips carefully with proper layover destinations. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering to make time to divide groups and travel more efficiently?

HALLELUJAH!

9

Felix

Today

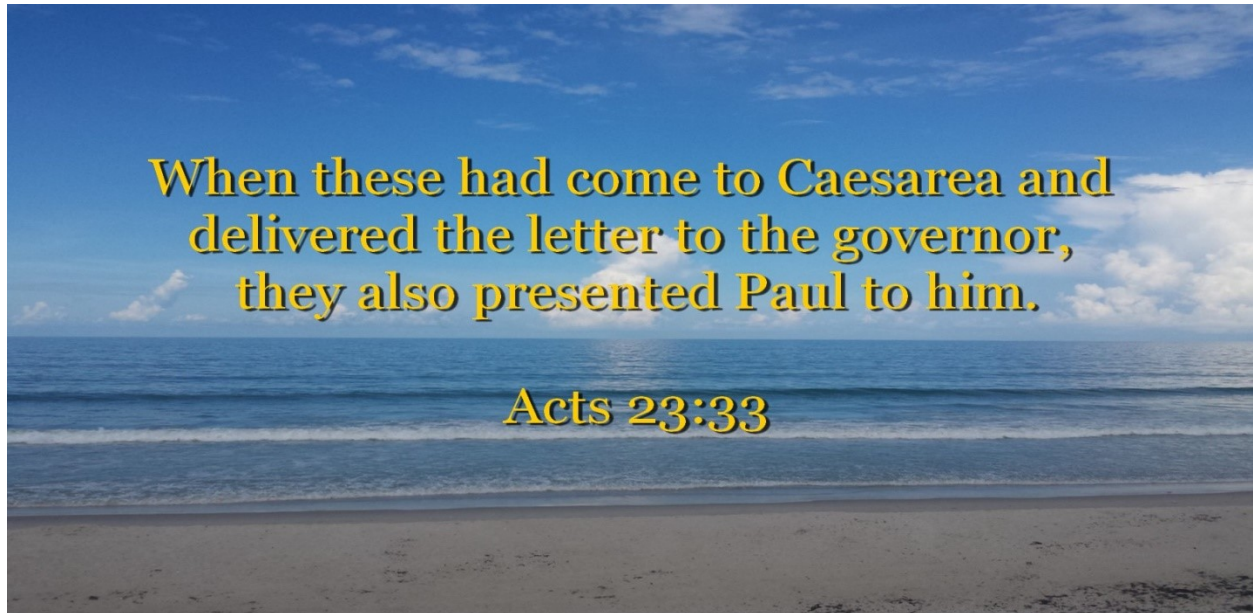
The soldiers brought Paul to Caesarea and delivered the letter from Claudius Lysias to the governor, Felix. Felix promised to give Paul a hearing after his accusers arrived. Paul was held in Herod's Praetorium. After five days, the high priest Ananias came down from Jerusalem with some elders and an attorney named Tertullus. They accused Paul of religious and Roman crimes. Paul then responded and denied all their charges. Having heard from both sides Felix told Paul that he would decide his case when Claudius Lysias came down to Caesarea. While Paul was kept in custody, he was allowed to spend time with his friends who ministered to him.

Paul discussed righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come with Felix, but he became very frightened hearing about those things. From time to time Felix continued to talk to Paul, hoping that Paul would give him some money and buy his freedom. After two years passed Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. Felix left Paul and jail, doing the Jews a favor.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 844

Caesarea Today



What did the soldiers do when they reached Caesarea? They presented the letter and Paul to the governor.

The Roman commander, Claudius Lysias, determined that the best thing for Paul was to get him to Caesarea. The Jews formed a large plot, with the aid of all the Jewish leaders, to ambush Paul and kill him. Having learned of the plan, the Roman commander sent Paul away with the legal detachment of more than 450 soldiers guarding him.

Leaving that night, the soldiers reached Antipatris at night, putting about 30 miles of distance between them and Jerusalem. The soldiers separated, leaving the foot soldiers behind to return to the barracks in Jerusalem and guarding the back trail along the way. Paul and the other men on horses could then make good time to Caesarea.

Having reached Caesarea, the soldiers delivered Paul and the letter from Claudius Lysias to Felix the governor. Their duties were then completed and they were free to return to Jerusalem, where they may have been needed if the Jews became agitated because Paul had eluded their grasp once again.

Governor

1. **When**. What did the soldiers do when they arrived in Caesarea? They presented Paul and the letter to the governor.
2. **Come**. The soldiers had come to Caesarea taking Paul with them because the Jews plotted to kill him in Jerusalem.
3. **Caesarea**. They rode by horses to speed their flight to Caesarea.
4. **Delivered**. They delivered the letter from Claudius Lysias to Felix the governor.
5. **Letter**. The letter gave a brief statement of why Paul was remanded to the custody of the governor in Caesarea.
6. **Governor**. Living holy in the family of God means that Felix the governor now became responsible for Paul.
7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because Paul had escaped from Jerusalem and the plot to kill him by the grace of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that the grace of God helps us in many different ways.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul was rescued from the Jews who tried to kill him by the Roman soldiers who took him all the way to Caesarea.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by watching the plan of God unfold so that Paul would testify before higher and higher levels of authority.**

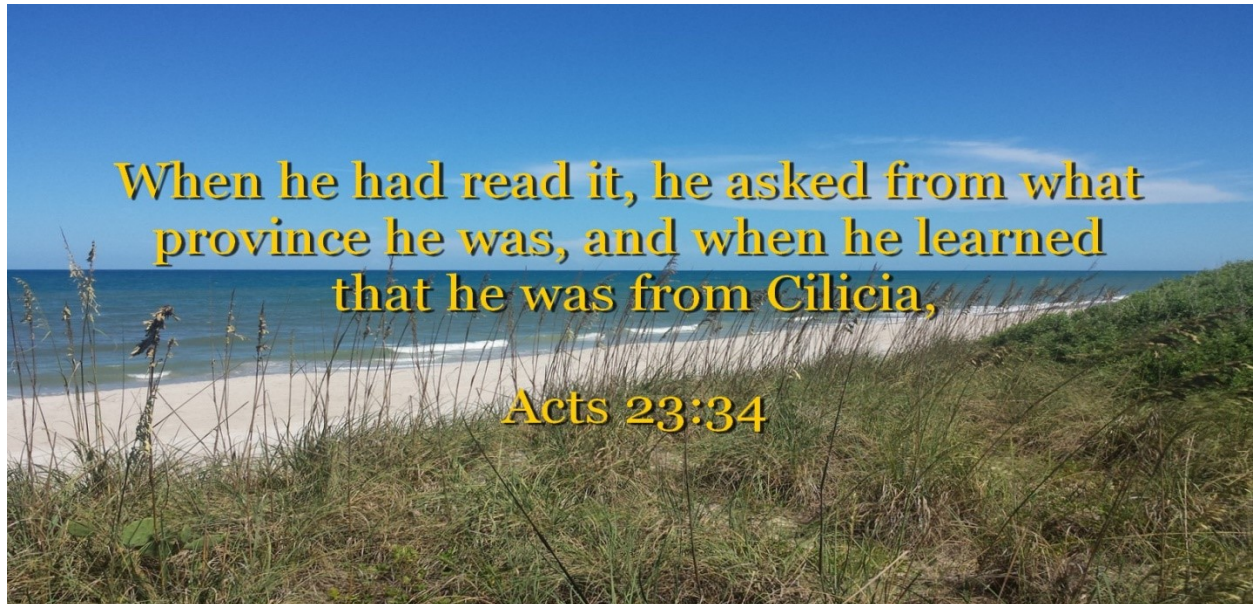
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His perfect plans so that our testimony will reach people in authority with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering how Paul moved up the chain of command, sharing Christ as he went?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 845

Province Today



What did Felix do with the letter from Claudius Lysias? Felix read the letter and had a question for Paul.

Claudius Lysias had written a letter to Felix the governor in Caesarea. The Roman commander had not been able to ascertain the charges the Jews had against Paul. He was, however, able to determine that the Jews had no charges against Paul deserving of death or imprisonment. Their charges focused upon matters of religious law.

The Roman commander had also indicated that Paul was a Roman. Not only did that trigger important legal rights for Paul in any judicial proceeding, but it also stirred the curiosity of Felix. He asked Paul from what province he was. Paul had already told the Roman commander in Jerusalem that he was from Tarsus, not an insignificant city of Cilicia.

Felix the governor now had a new prisoner and a pending controversy between Paul and the Jews. Governors like Felix often sat as judges deciding disputes. Paul had appeared before other regional authorities in Asia and Europe. The Lord Jesus Christ told Paul that he would be His witness before

many people in authority and he would suffer much for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Cilicia

1. **When**. What questions did Felix have about Paul? He wanted to know more about Paul's background.

2. **Read**. Felix read the letter from Claudius Lysias when Paul arrived at Caesarea.

3. **Asked**. Felix asked about Paul's birthplace.

4. **Province**. He wanted to know specifically about what province Paul was from.

5. **Learned**. Felix would be sitting as judge upon Paul and learned what he could about Paul.

6. **From**. Living holy in the family of God means that just as Paul had told the Roman commander he was from Tarsus, not an insignificant city in the Roman Empire, he also told Felix.

7. **Cilicia**. We rejoice today because Paul was from Cilicia, and his Roman citizenship gave him valuable legal rights in Roman courts.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding how the legal process worked in Rome and appreciating Paul's opportunity to defend himself in a relatively neutral forum.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by appreciating the detail that God provided in writing about Felix learning about Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul's Roman citizenship came from being born in Tarsus to Roman parents.**

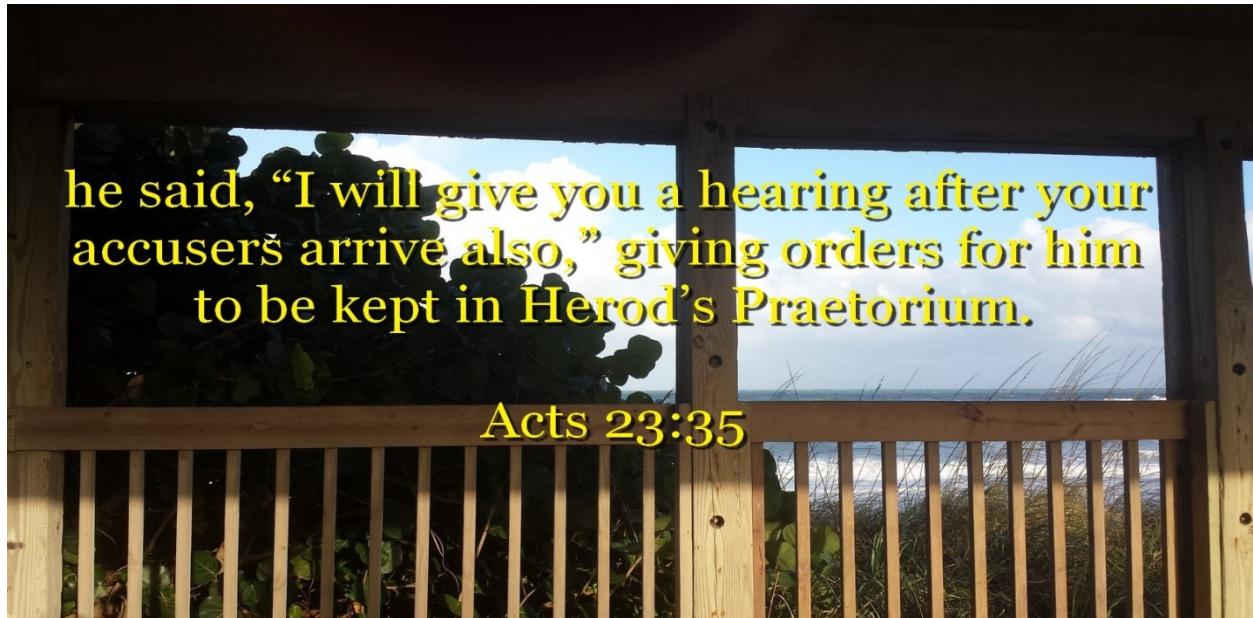
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God chose Paul to bear His Name to Gentiles and their kings and the people of Israel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for using Paul to speak to Felix and other authorities concerning the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 846

Hearing Today



What did Felix promise Paul? Felix promised that he would give Paul a hearing once his accusers had arrived.

Claudius Lysias commanded that Paul be taken from Jerusalem to Caesarea for trial. He learned that the Jews plotted to kill Paul with an ambush built upon the pretext of further investigation at the Council chambers. He sent more than 450 soldiers to escort Paul from Jerusalem to Caesarea. He also wrote a letter to Governor Felix who resided in Caesarea.

Paul had been held in custody in Jerusalem because the Jews had arrested him. The Roman commander had sought to ascertain those charges on several occasions, but never really found out what the problem was. Claudius Lysias wrote to Felix and said that Paul was accused of religious offenses, but nothing warranting imprisonment or death.

Felix the governor ordered that Paul be held in the Praetorium of Herod. A Roman praetorium is often the palace or residence of a governor or other high ranking official. In this case, Herod held built a praetorium at Caesarea as his own palace where he could stay when he visited Caesarea.

Accusers

1. **Said**. What did Felix tell Paul about the trial? Felix said that he would give Paul a hearing when the accusers arrived from Jerusalem.
2. **Give**. Although Paul was entitled to a hearing under Roman law, that hearing could be put off for a very long time and he would remain in custody.
3. **Hearing**. The Jews would operate as the prosecutor bringing charges against Paul at the hearing.
4. **Accusers**. The accusers would lay out their different charges against the accused and then offer proof to convince the judge, Felix the governor in this case.
5. **Arrive**. Felix said the trial therefore would have to wait until the accusers arrived in Caesarea.
6. **Orders**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provided a nicer place for Paul to stay in Caesarea.
7. **Praetorium**. We rejoice today because Felix ordered Paul to be kept in the Praetorium of Herod in Caesarea, something like the residence that Herod built for himself.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting the accusers of the brethren to be careful with their words of flattery.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit to provide the right words at the right time at trial.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying for believers caught up in any legal system because of their faithful proclamation of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

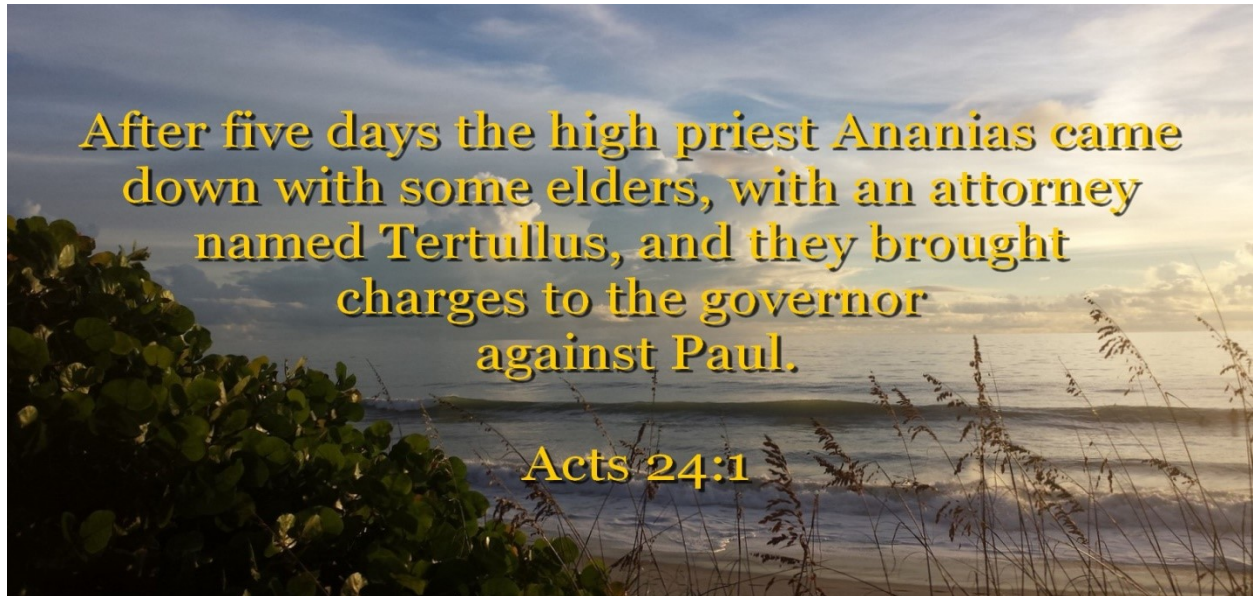
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking forward to the day we were with Jesus in heaven and no longer subject to persecution in court for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the legal protections some governments afford citizens who proclaim their faith?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 847

Ananias Today



How long did it take for the Jews to come down and bring charges against Paul? They came about five days after Paul arrived in Caesarea.

Ananias the high priest, with some elders, came down from Jerusalem to Caesarea. They brought an attorney with them named Tertullus. They had come for the express purpose of bringing their charges against Paul so that Felix the governor could hear them.

Felix had promised Paul that when the Jews came from Jerusalem, then he would hear Paul's case. Claudius Lysias had already informed Felix the governor by letter that he found that Paul had done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment. He could not ascertain the religious charges against Paul, although he had tried on more than one occasion to ascertain those charges.

Paul was not a stranger to making a defense before religious bodies. He also had experience in court in both Europe and Asia. Government tribunals were nothing new to him. Paul was a well-seasoned speaker and adept at arguments. Notwithstanding Paul's personal talents, the Holy Spirit would

help Paul with the words he needed at the time he needed them. Jesus had already told Paul that he would be speaking to authorities in Rome.

Charges

1. **Five**. What happened after five days? The Jews came from Jerusalem to prosecute Paul.

2. **Ananias**. Ananias, the high priest, came to prosecute Paul.

3. **Elders**. He was joined by some elders from Jerusalem.

4. **Attorney**. The Jews also brought legal counsel named Tertullus.

5. **Brought**. They had assembled in Caesarea and brought charges against Paul.

6. **Charges**. Living holy in the family of God means that the charges from the Jews would be heard by Governor Felix.

7. **Governor**. We rejoice today because Felix the governor would have an opportunity to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from Paul the apostle.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how God had arranged for Paul to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with Felix the governor.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying for believers who face government officials because of their testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by standing with all people persecuted by the government for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

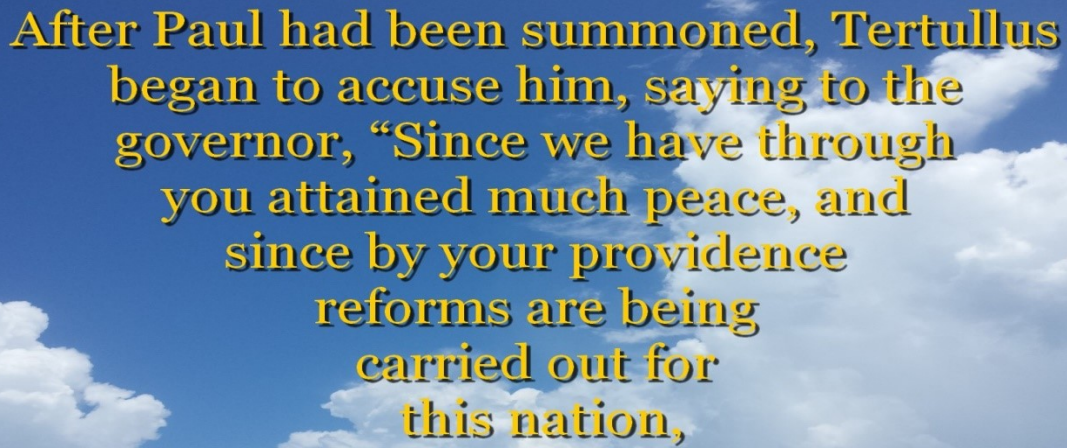
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews accusing Paul because of his faithful testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His plan for Paul to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with kings and governors and others in authority?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 848

Summoned Today



After Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying to the governor, “Since we have through you attained much peace, and since by your providence reforms are being carried out for this nation,

Acts 24:2

How did Tertullus begin his opening argument to Felix the governor? He started by extolling the virtues of Felix.

After Paul had been summoned to court, Tertullus gave his opening statement. He directed his remarks first to Felix, the trier of fact and the judge rendering the judgment. Tertullus declared that the Jews and the Gentiles had attained much peace because of the reforms Felix had initiated. Tertullus specifically thanked Felix for the help he had provided to the Jewish nation with those reforms.

Tertullus sought the good graces of Felix. By reminding Felix of the peace attained through the reforms he initiated, Tertullus was gently suggesting that Paul would disturb that peace. Paul had caused at least two riots in Jerusalem with his teachings, or so the Jews claimed. In fact, the Roman commander had to rescue Paul from the Jews on more than one occasion.

Tertullus wanted Felix to understand that the chief priest and the elders attending the proceedings appreciated the peace Felix had brought to

the nation of Israel. He did not want anything or anyone like Paul to disturb that peace. The Jews and the Roman governor both longed for mutual peace.

Accuse

1. **Paul**. What happened after Paul was summoned to court? Tertullus began his opening argument.

2. **Summoned**. Paul had been summoned to court because Felix had promised him a hearing when the Jews arrived in Caesarea and they were present.

3. **Tertullus**. The Jews brought their lawyer with them named Tertullus.

4. **Accuse**. He began to accuse Paul before Felix the governor.

5. **Peace**. He also focused upon currying favor with Felix as a first priority.

6. **Reforms**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the lawyer for the Jews extolled the reforms initiated by Felix that brought peace to the nation of Israel.

7. **Nation**. We rejoice today because the nation of Israel experienced some peace under Roman rule, but only the Jews who received Jesus Christ as Savior knew the peace of God which surpasses all understanding.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the lawyer for the Jews buttering up Felix the governor.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He is in charge of every courtroom and every judge, although the ruler of this world does much evil in many courtrooms.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that every judge from every trial will one day give an account of every word he spoke on earth.**

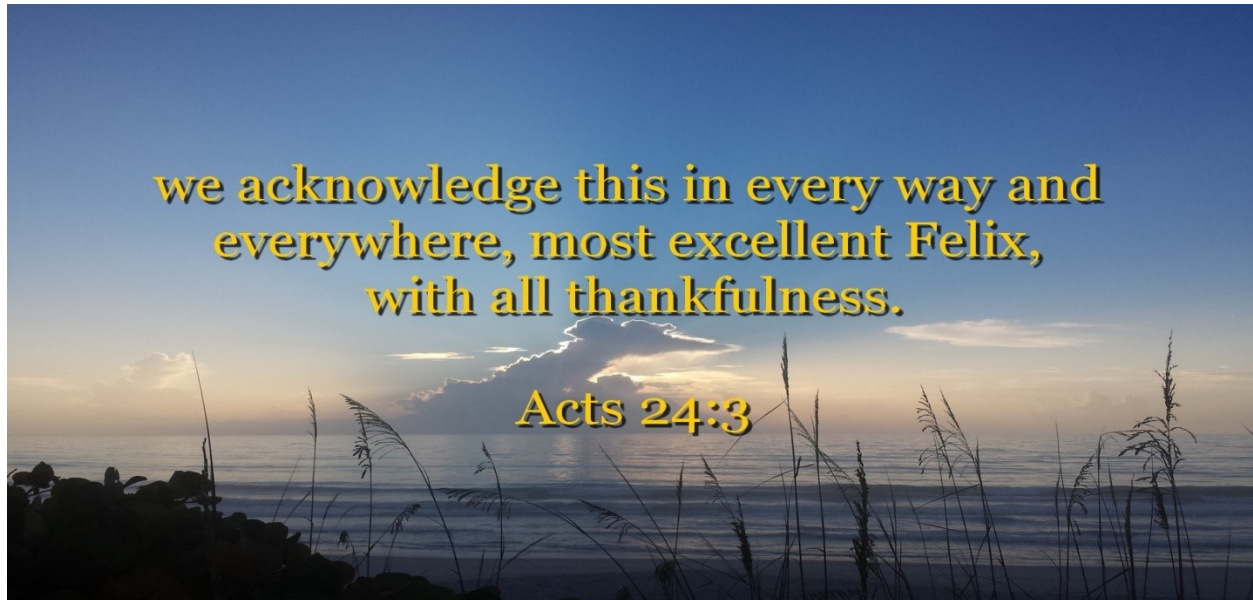
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God gives us the right words at the right time to speak up for Jesus before people in authority. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation about the will of God that no one can withstand as you testify for God and His great love?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 849

Acknowledge Today



What did the Jewish lawyer acknowledge? He acknowledged that Felix had helped the Jewish nation greatly.

The attorney for the Jews, Tertullus, started his opening with praising Felix. He reminded Felix that his reforms had brought much peace to the nation of Israel. He implied that things were going very well in Jerusalem until Paul showed up and caused riots.

The attorney for the Jews also gave thanks to most excellent Felix. That attorney was falling over himself to heap as much praise upon Felix as possible right from the opening. As both the trier of fact and the judge rendering the final judgment, Tertullus wanted to be sure to stroke Felix appropriately with praise and thanksgiving for his wonderful reforms now threatened by Paul in his disregard for Jewish customs and law.

The attorney for the Jews had laid a foundation of peace directly attributable to the reforms initiated by Felix. He would argue in his charges against Paul that they were not just religious charges, but they were actually charges directly related to Roman law bringing peace to the nation of Israel.

Paul's alleged actions were not just religious controversies to be settled in a religious court, but allegedly serious violations of Roman law and peace.

Thankfulness

1. **We**. What did the lawyer for the Jews say about Felix? He said the Jews were thankful.

2. **Acknowledge**. The lawyer said that they acknowledged the great things that Felix the governor had done.

3. **Way**. Indeed, they acknowledged in every way the great reforms of Felix the governor.

4. **Everywhere**. They also acknowledged everywhere the greatness of Felix the governor.

5. **Excellent**. Tertullus referred to Felix the governor as most excellent.

6. **Felix**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Tertullus praising the governor Felix as part of his opening remarks.

7. **Thankfulness**. We rejoice today because Paul had his day in court, and the Jews were full of thankfulness for the reforms of Felix the governor, or so they said.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the flattery that Tertullus poured upon Felix the governor.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by listening carefully to the charges brought against Christians for their faith in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that some courts allow both parties to speak and provide testimony and arguments.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the trial of Paul before Felix because it fulfilled, in part, the prophecy of Jesus concerning Paul speaking before people in authority. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that Paul had an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Felix, Tertullus, Ananias, some elders and everyone else associated with the trial before Felix the governor?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 850

Grant Today



What did Tertullus want? He wanted a brief hearing.

The Jews came to Caesarea with a lawyer named Tertullus. He would speak for them and present their case to Felix. He was the chief prosecutor for the Jews as they accused Paul of wrongdoing, amounting to criminal charges based upon violations of both Jewish and Roman law.

Tertullus said he did not want to weary Felix any further. Of course, he had just used all of his breath to extol Felix and praise him for the reforms he inaugurated which brought peace to the nation of Israel.

He also wanted a brief hearing. Anytime a lawyer tells you they will be brief, take such statements with a grain of salt. The Jews had selected their lawyer so that they could focus all the attention upon Paul. They were attempting to show that Paul had caused trouble in Israel and threatened to disturb the peace that Felix had worked so hard to bring to the Jews.

Paul was an experienced speaker and knew how to formulate persuasive arguments. While Felix had a conspicuous interest in pacifying

the Jews, and particularly the leadership assembled at Caesarea, Roman law still required a trial and punishment commensurate with the offense.

Hearing

1. **Not**. What did Tertullus want to avoid? He wanted to avoid making Felix the governor wearier with his remarks.

2. **Weary**. The lawyer for the Jews expressed concern that he may not further weary Felix with his remarks.

3. **Beg**. He claimed to beg for a time to bring his accusations before the court.

4. **Grant**. He asked that the court grant him an opportunity to accuse Paul.

5. **Kindness**. He prays the kindness of Felix the governor for allowing a hearing in court to make accusations against Paul.

6. **Brief**. Living holy in the family of God means that while Tertullus sought a brief hearing before Felix the governor, he represented people who had formed a conspiracy to murder Paul by ambush and never mentioned any of that to the governor.

7. **Hearing**. We rejoice today because Felix granted Paul a brief hearing, but it was only the first step in a long legal process.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews standing in the courtroom who had tried to murder Paul in cold blood by ambush and pretended that he was the criminal.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting the accusers to have a log in their eyes so that they are blind to the truth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that justice will always prevail in heaven if not always on earth.**

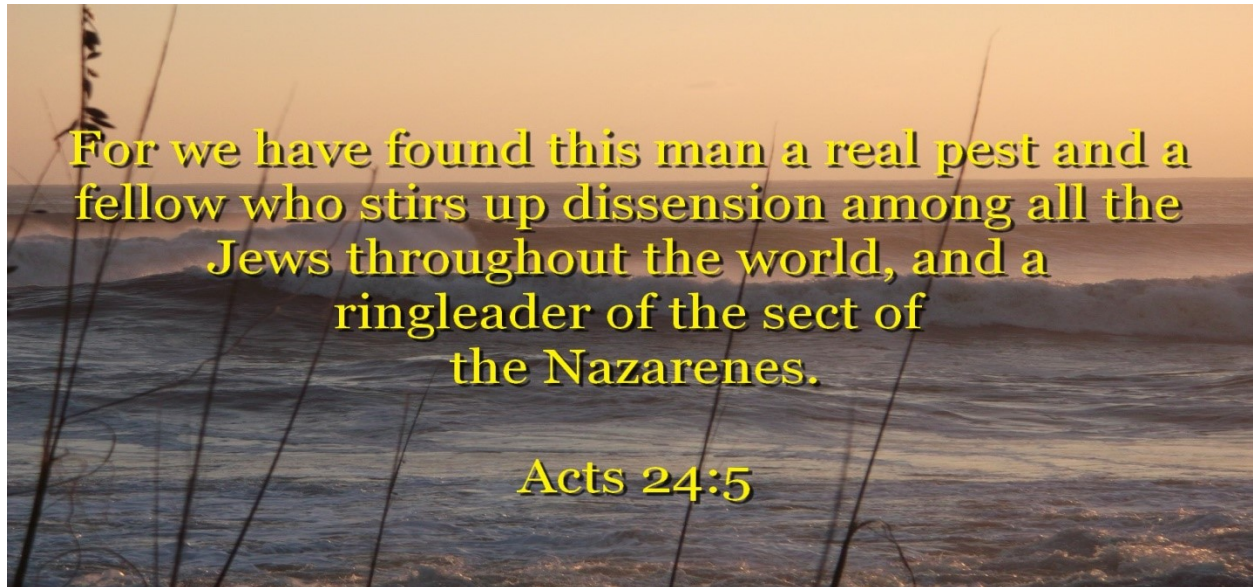
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by seeking God's grace and mercy and justice in all court proceedings. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He loves justice, mercy, grace and forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 851

Dissention Today



How did Tertullus describe Paul? He described Paul as a real pest.

Felix the governor ordered Paul to stand trial before his accusers, the Jews from Jerusalem. The chief priests and some elders came down to Caesarea to accuse Paul. They brought a lawyer named Tertullus with them. He appealed to Felix the governor and judge, praising him for the reforms that helped the Jewish nation.

He described Paul as a real pest who stirs up dissension all over the Jewish world. He also called Paul a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. You may recall that Nazareth had a reputation that no good thing could come out of it.

The lawyer based those comments on a personal attack on Paul, without any witnesses or facts to back them up. With those few opening remarks, the charges against Paul seemed religious in nature. Therefore, Felix the Roman governor would be less likely to want to make a decision about Jewish law.

Jews wanted to silence Paul once and for all. They would like Felix the governor to sentence Paul to death one way or another. They had successfully condemned Jesus and had Him murdered by the Roman government.

Ringleader

1. **We**. What did the lawyer say about the Jews? The lawyer said that the Jews found Paul to be a real pest.

2. **Pest**. He used the term to describe Paul as a man that caused problems like a pest causes problems.

3. **Dissension**. The lawyer also charged Paul with causing dissension among the Jews.

4. **Jews**. The lawyer did not mention that the Jews had dissension among themselves between the parties of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

5. **World**. He also charged that Paul would cause problems all over the world for Jews.

6. **Ringleader**. Living holy in the family of God means that the lawyer referred to Paul as a ringleader of a Jewish sect.

7. **Nazarenes**. We rejoice today because Jesus the Nazarene gave rise to Christianity and not the sect of the Nazarenes, for people from all over the world follow Jesus, not just Jews from Nazareth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the lawyer accusing Paul of causing dissension.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some lawyers do not always tell the truth about Christians.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to promote the truth about Christians and His love for the family of God.**

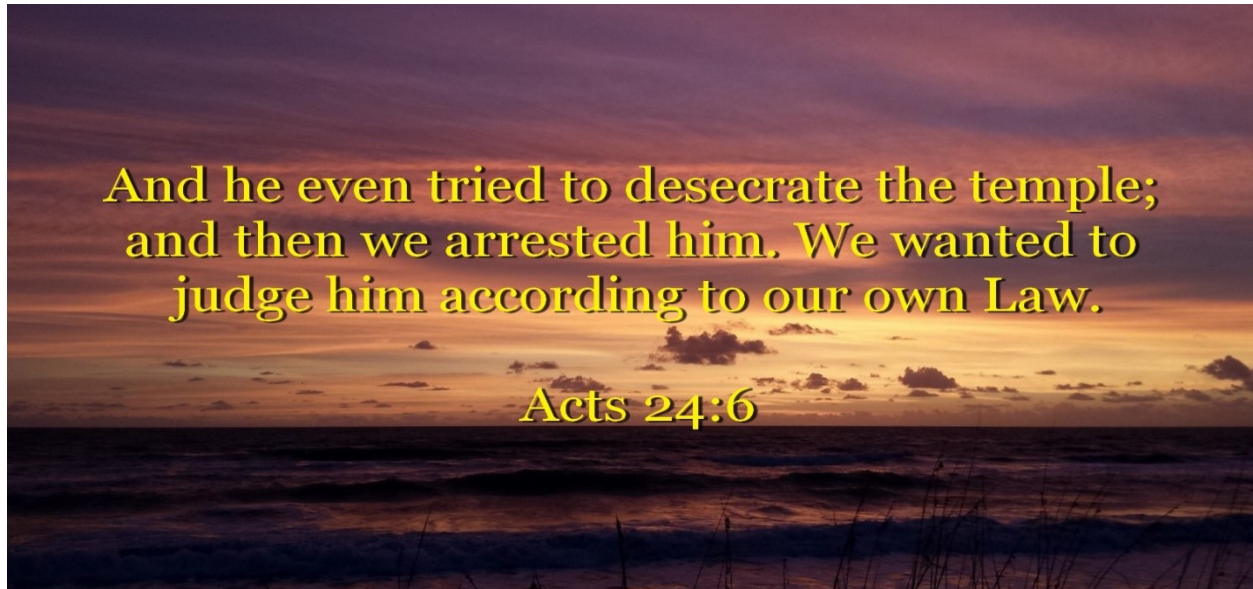
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that lawyers like Tertullus stretch the truth past breaking to help their clients. Will you live holy in the family of God today by relying upon Jesus to be your advocate?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 852

Desecrate Today



What other charge did the lawyer bring against Paul? He claimed that Paul desecrated the Jewish Temple.

The Jews from Asia saw Paul in the Temple. They concluded, with no basis in fact, that he had brought a Gentile into the Temple. Paul had been with Trophimus the Ephesian in Jerusalem, but he had never brought him into the Temple. The Jews from Asia started shouting when they saw Paul in the Temple and threw the entire city into an uproar.

The lawyer also claimed that the Jews arrested Paul. The lawyer did not mention that the crowd was trying to tear Paul apart when the Romans came and rescued him from the crowd. The lawyer claimed that they wanted to judge Paul according to their own Law, intending to put him to death with Roman approval.

So far, the lawyer only brought religious charges against Paul. As the Roman commander observed in his letter to Felix, Paul had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death. The Jews merely had disputes about their

own law. They did not have any eyewitness testimony to support truthfully their claims that Paul had desecrated the Temple.

Arrested

1. **Tried**. Why did the lawyer bring up the Temple? He claimed that Paul tried to desecrate it.

2. **Desecrate**. He claimed that Paul tried to desecrate the Temple by bringing a Gentile into the Temple.

3. **Temple**. Paul never brought a Gentile into the Temple, but he did move around Jerusalem with the disciple named Trophimus.

4. **Then**. The Jews from Asia caused a riot by claiming that Paul brought a Gentile into the Temple and then mob violence broke out.

5. **We**. The lawyer said that we arrested him because he tried to desecrate the Temple.

6. **Arrested**. Living holy in the family of God means that the lawyer conveniently left out that after Paul was arrested the mob tried to tear him apart.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because God looked after Paul so that the Romans rescued him from the violent mob.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews claiming the Paul tried to desecrate the Temple.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Jews arrested Paul on false pretenses.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the Jews were unable to silence Paul when they arrested him because God had other plans for Paul.**

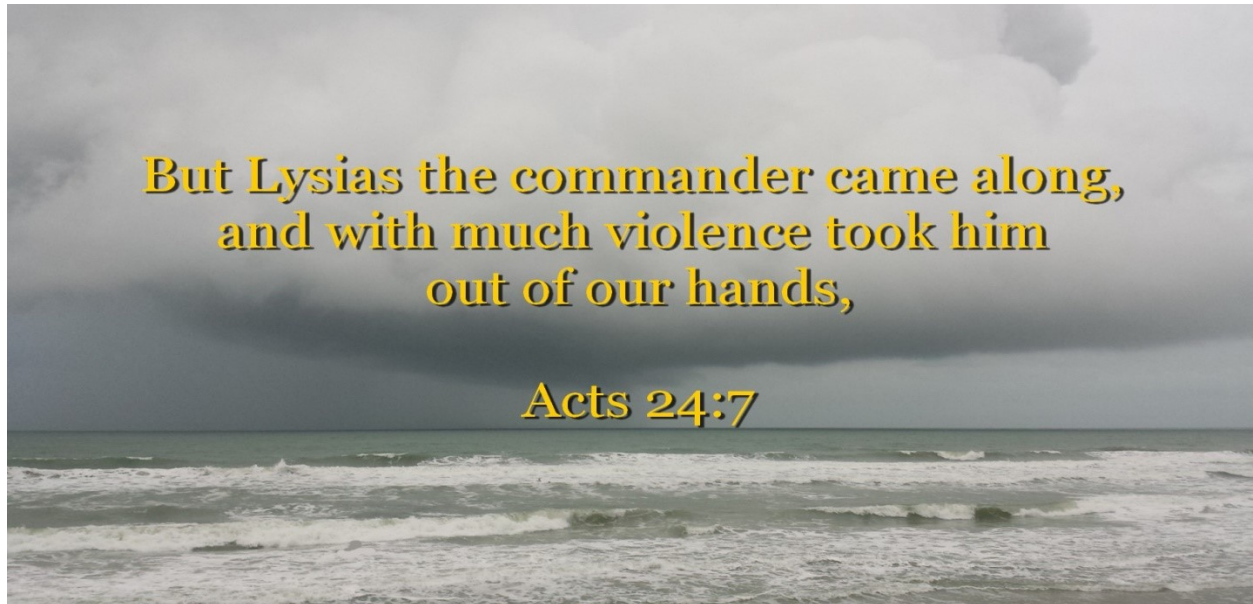
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jewish lawyer leaving out critical facts concerning Paul and the behavior of the Jews. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing over the deliverance the Romans provided Paul from the Jews?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 853

Lysias Today



What did the lawyer say about Claudius Lysias? The lawyer said that the Roman commander came along and took Paul away from the Jews with much violence.

The lawyer conveniently failed to mention that the Jews were trying to tear Paul apart at that time. As a Roman citizen, Paul should not be harmed in any way before trial. The Roman soldiers actually had a duty to defend Paul from the Jewish mob. The Roman commander ordered that Paul be put into two chains immediately, another violation of Roman law which no one mentioned, very conveniently. Serious finger-pointing had begun, but no truth or witness could support the claims in good faith.

Paul only survived his first encounter with the Jewish mob because the Roman commander came to his aid and rescued him from the Jews in the nick of time. Even then, the Jews repeatedly tried to kill Paul without trial. The Jewish leadership and more than 40 men bound under an oath all tried to ambush Paul and worked in concert to achieve that result. Only because

their evil plot was exposed did Paul survive and, with the help of the Romans, was brought to Caesarea for trial.

Violence

1. **Lysias**. How did the lawyer criticize Lysias? He said that the Roman commander seized Paul with much violence.

2. **Commander**. He did not say anything about the commander saving the life of Paul from the beating the Jews were giving to him.

3. **Came**. Actually the Roman commander came to the Jewish mob in the nick of time.

4. **Much**. The Roman commander had to use violence to grab Paul away from the violent mob.

5. **Violence**. The Jews started the violence by attacking Paul and trying to tear him to pieces.

6. **Took**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the Roman commander took Paul out of the midst of a mob bent upon killing him.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because God spared the life of Paul using Claudius Lysias.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that the lawyer did not tell the most important part of the arrest of Paul to Felix.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that when the Jews arrested Paul and beat him, the Roman commander rushed to take custody of Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the many ways He delivers missionaries from the hand of evil.**

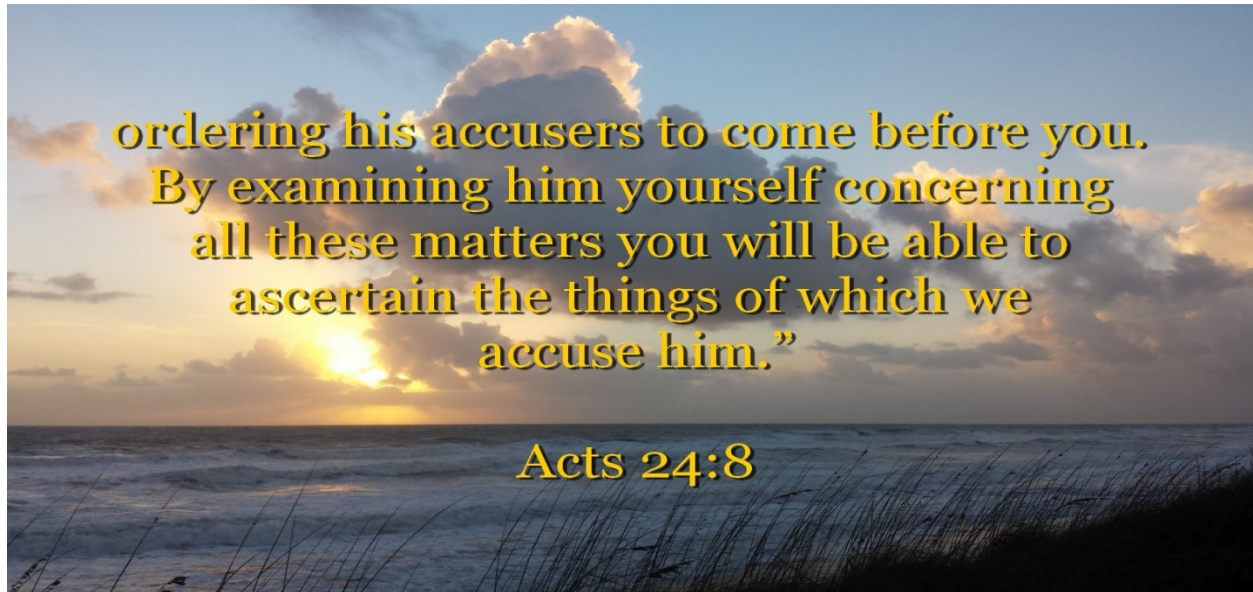
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never counting upon the enemy to tell the truth in court. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering how the lawyer tried to blame Claudius Lysias for taking Paul away from the Jews?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 854

Accusers Today



What did the lawyer want Felix to do? The lawyer wanted Felix himself to examine Paul.

Of course, Felix would examine Paul, but the lawyer felt better telling Felix to examine Paul. Felix, however, was not likely to be taken in by the lawyer. The lawyer's opening arguments only confirmed what the Roman commander had already written about Paul and the Jews. Paul had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death, but the Jews had a dispute with Paul about their own Law and customs. Roman jurisdiction would be stretched to cover such matters.

The Jews would also be happy to have Paul remanded into their custody so that they could return them to Jerusalem and try him there. Of course, Paul would be unlikely to make the trip alive. The very men standing before Felix had already been part of a plot to kill Paul by ambush. The Roman commander knew all about that and it would not be lost on Felix that hundreds of soldiers accompanied Paul to Caesarea.

Just as Pontius Pilate felt pressure from the Jews, so also did the Jews before Felix try to pressure him to do their will as well. He had an interest in preserving peace and tranquility with the Jews.

Examining

1. **Ordering**. According to the lawyer, why were the Jews there? They had to appear before Felix because Lysias had ordered them to appear.

2. **Accusers**. Lysias had required the accusers to travel to Caesarea to accuse Paul before Felix.

3. **Come**. Lysias had required the Jews to come before Felix so they could accuse Paul in court.

4. **Examine**. The lawyer also urged Felix to examine Paul.

5. **Yourself**. The lawyer implied that Felix would completely side with the Jews in the dispute.

6. **Ascertain**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the lawyer urged Felix to ascertain the facts about Paul and his arrest.

7. **Things**. We rejoice today because the lawyer thought Felix would convict Paul or remand him to the custody of the Jews which would amount to the death penalty.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the lawyer urging Felix himself to examine Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He knows all the facts all the time and never needs to examine anyone to learn the facts.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by glorifying God who will pass judgment upon everyone who rejected Jesus Christ as Savior, including all the people who passed judgment upon Jesus and condemned Him to death on a cross.**

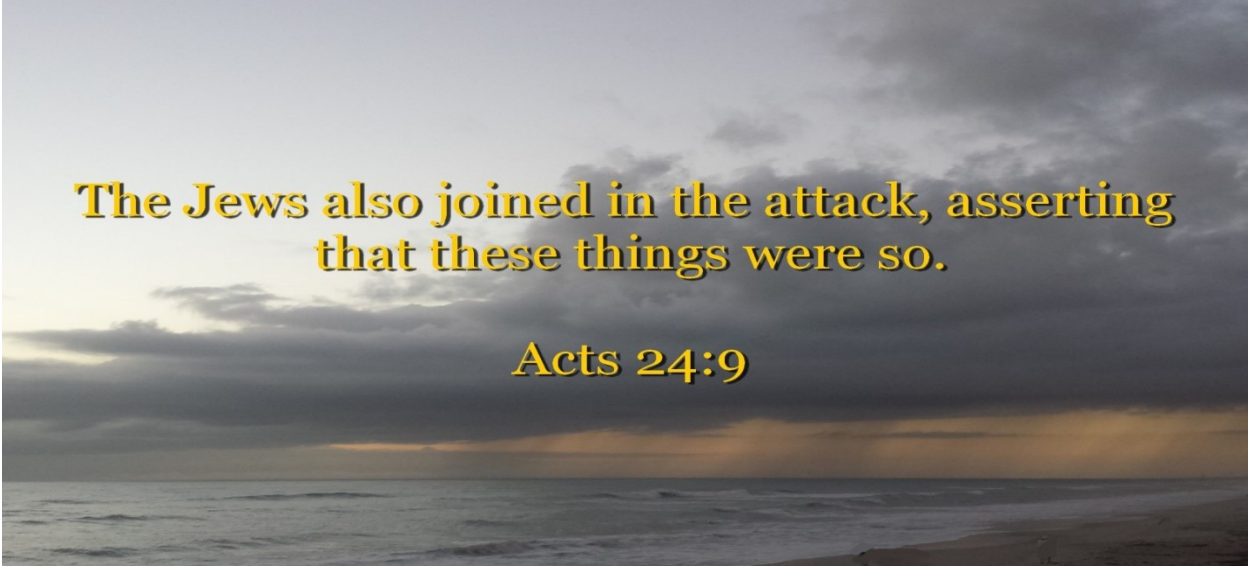
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, no matter what false charges people bring against Christians. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His plans for Paul and others to testify in court about salvation in Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 855

Jews Today



The Jews also joined in the attack, asserting that these things were so.

Acts 24:9

Who else joined the attack upon Paul? The Jews also joined in the attack.

The lawyer outlined the case against Paul as a Jewish dispute from start to finish. The Jews themselves then joined the attack, asserting that all those charges were true. Again, no Jew or the lawyer mentioned that the Jews had tried to kill Paul on more than one occasion. They did not mention that the Jews themselves were deeply divided along religious lines separating the Sadducees from the Pharisees. None of the Jews mentioned that the Pharisees found that Paul had done nothing wrong.

If the Jewish presentation was designed to make Paul look guilty of a religious crime, then they had presented no evidence, but only pure opinion. If the Jewish presentation, on the other hand, was designed to make Paul look bad in the Roman court and guilty of a Roman crime, they had not met that objective. If the lawyer merely wanted to persuade Felix to find the Paul had broken some religious law and therefore the Jews could exercise jurisdiction over him under their own laws, then maybe things would not go well for Paul.

Paul was also afforded an opportunity to speak under Roman law. He could face his accusers and provide his defense. Paul's time to speak was at hand.

Asserting

1. **The**. What did the Jews do when the lawyer finished? They joined the attack upon Paul.

2. **Jews**. The Jews had heard their lawyer talk and accuse Paul of many things.

3. **Joined**. When he finished, they joined in the attack on Paul, backing up his claims.

4. **Attack**. Their attack upon Paul still sounded like a religious dispute.

5. **Asserting**. The Jews were asserting the things proclaimed by the lawyer to be true.

6. **Things**. Living holy in the family of God means that some people lie together in court with their lawyer leading the charge.

7. **So**. We rejoice today because Jesus always knows the truth and so no one ever deceives Him with lies in court.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Jews joined together in lying about Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to bring out the truth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following Jesus always and taking refuge in Him as other people lie about us.**

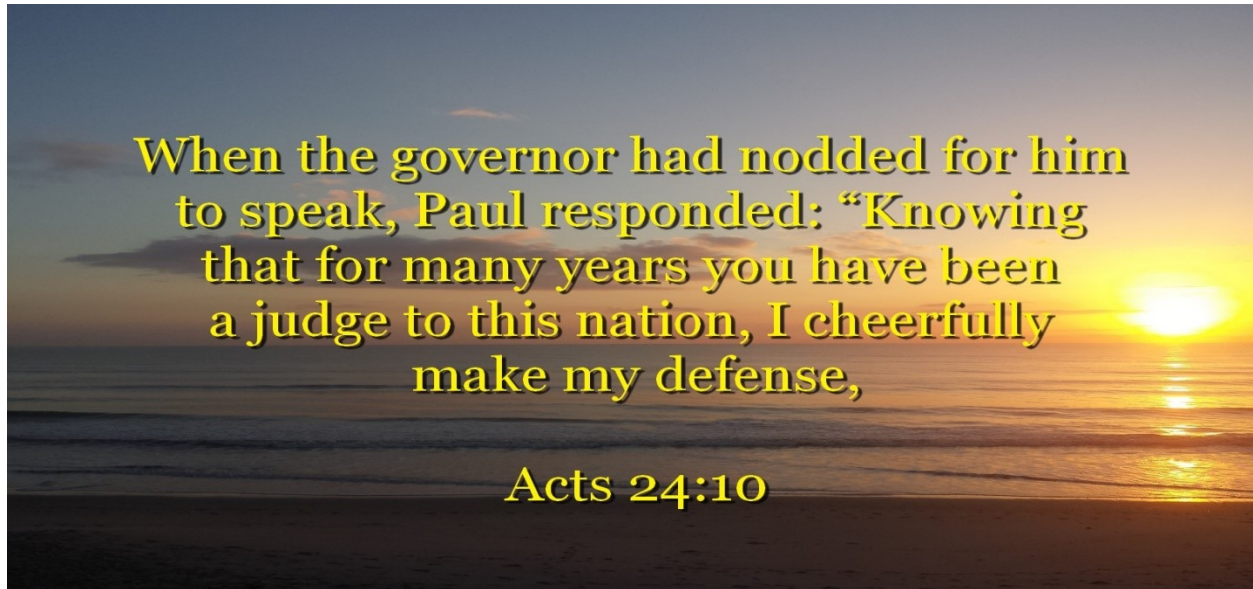
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising Jesus that He is the truth and proclaims the truth through His servants. Will you live holy in the family of God today by telling the truth about Jesus as He presents opportunities for you to testify about Him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 856

Governor Today



What did Paul say in his defense? Paul recognized Felix as a judge with many years of experience judging the nation of Israel.

Paul said he was cheerful to make his defense. He publicly recognized Felix the governor as a longtime judge of Israel. In other words, everyone knew that Judge Felix had a long history of judicial experience judging the nation of Israel. He was not a political newcomer appointed to the post of Governor. He was a seasoned judge of the people of Israel.

While the attorney for the Jews extolled Felix, hoping to gain some advantage, Paul briefly acknowledged the experience of Felix. Paul also brought some emotion into his defense. Instead of being angry and hostile, Paul was cheerful. He knew he had a greater purpose in presenting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone at the trial. In fact, he looked forward to being examined by Felix concerning the charges.

On the merits of the case, Paul had nothing to fear. He knew they could produce no truthful witness who saw him desecrate the Temple. All they had were liars and people with obvious bias against Paul and the truth. Felix

would see through their witnesses in a heartbeat, provided he was looking for the truth.

Judge

1. **Governor**. What did Paul say when the governor nodded for him to begin his defense? Paul told the judge how cheerful he was to make the defense.

2. **Nodded**. Felix the governor and judge nodded for Paul to begin his presentation.

3. **Speak**. Paul began to speak, but said things that told Felix that the Jews were not telling the truth.

4. **Paul**. Paul also thanked Felix for his experience judging the nation of Israel.

5. **Years**. He said that Felix had many years of experience in judging the nation of Israel.

6. **Judged**. Living holy in the family of God means that when God provides an opportunity to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with judges and governors, we cheerfully speak up for the Lord Jesus.

7. **Cheerfully**. We rejoice today because Paul cheerfully presented his defense before Felix.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's cheerful defense before Felix.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul was on trial for his life, but calmly and precisely refuted the charges of the Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to give us perfect emotional control and joy as we speak up for Jesus.**

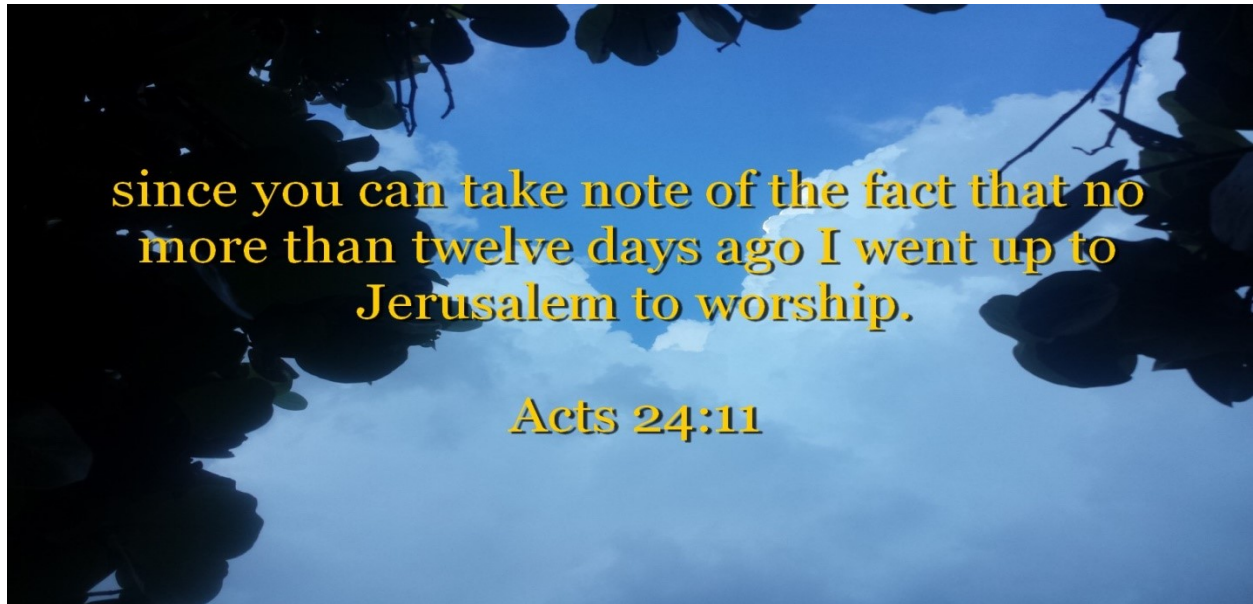
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's cheerful defense before Felix. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He helps those who trust Him for the right words to say at the right time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 857

Fact Today



Why did Paul set out a timeline? Paul mentioned that no more than 12 days ago he was going up to the Temple to worship to show Felix that everything to date had happened very quickly.

In the space of 12 days, Paul had been arrested by the Jews, rescued and chained by the Romans, returned to the Jews for trial, and then rescued from the Jews once more, and then sent to Caesarea to avoid an ambush from the Jews. Paul did not recount all those facts.

Paul cleverly attacked the argument that he was from the sect of the Nazarenes and disobeyed Jewish custom and law. He said he went to the Temple to worship, just like any other Jew would do. Paul did not go to the Temple to defile it, but to worship God there, the same God the Jews themselves claimed to worship.

Paul also showed why he was in the Temple. In contrast to the Jewish accusers, Paul showed that his only motivation for going to the Temple was to worship. Felix knew that Jews went to the Temple to worship. Paul was simply doing what Felix knew was proper Jewish behavior.

Worship

1. **Take**. What did Paul want Felix to take note of? Paul wanted Felix to remember the timeline of 12 days.
2. **Note**. Paul urged Felix to take note that only 12 days had elapsed since Paul arrived in Jerusalem and him standing before Felix the governor.
3. **Fact**. Paul relied upon facts in a timeline to refute the charges of the Jews.
4. **Twelve**. During those 12 days, Paul had been through several bad encounters with the Jews accusing him before Felix.
5. **Days**. Those 12 days started with Paul coming to Jerusalem to worship the God of the fathers of Israel.
6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul went to Jerusalem even though he knew he would end up in chains.
7. **Worship**. We rejoice today because Paul had already been chained by the Romans and now he was in a Roman court accused by some Jews, knowing all along that God had a plan to use him to speak to people in authority about Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering God's plan for our lives to speak up for him, no matter where He puts us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Paul who provided a great example of strength for God under strong legal pressures.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the words of Paul showing that the Jews could never convict him lawfully of any wrongdoing.**

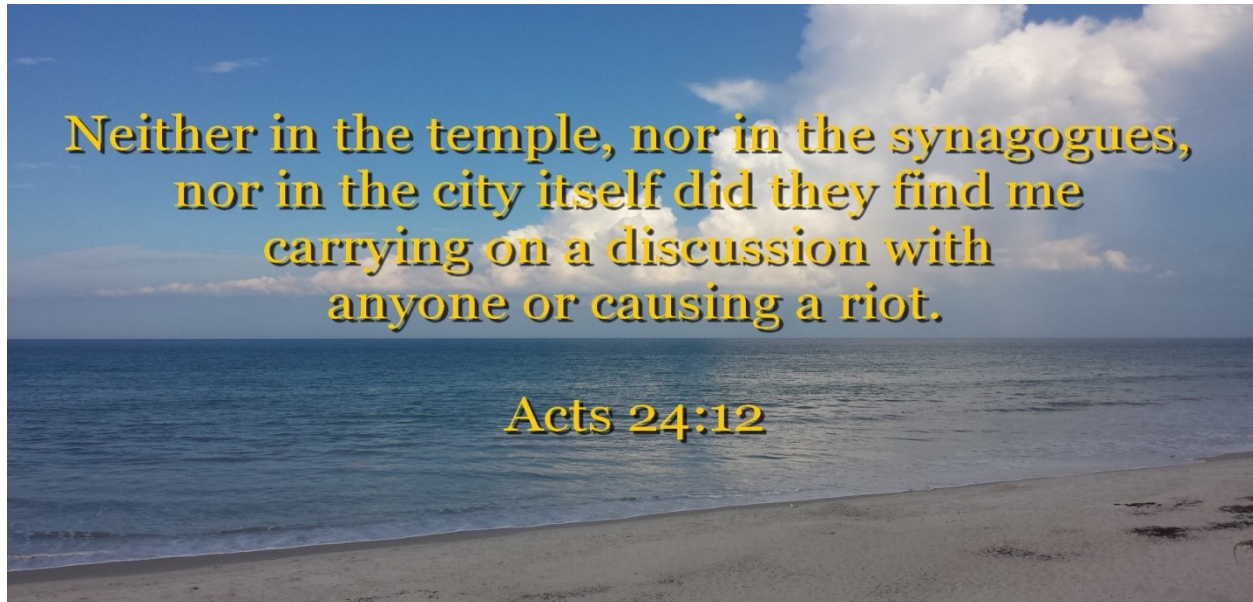
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for Paul's defense with cheerfulness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the strength and wisdom of Paul's defense which Jesus provided for him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 858

Discussion Today



What allegations did Paul address? Paul flatly denied that he carried on a discussion with anyone, or caused a riot.

Everyone in Jerusalem knew that a riot had broken out there. With just one sentence, Paul denied the allegation that he caused a riot. Paul went to the Temple to worship when the riot broke out. He was not the cause of that riot. Paul knew that the Jews from Asia saw him and incited the riot against him on false pretenses.

The Jews from Asia claimed that Paul had brought a Gentile into the Temple, defiling it. Paul put that charge to rest immediately and the Jews could not produce a single witness to identify a Gentile that Paul brought into the Temple and thereby defiled it.

Paul even went further than merely denying that he caused the riot. Paul stated that he did not carry on a discussion with anyone. He never caused trouble with a discussion in the Temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city did Paul cause problems or incite a riot. The only discussions Paul had were under Roman supervision. He stood on the stairs and addressed

the Jewish mob that had just beaten him and they broke out into another riot. The only other time Paul addressed the Jews was when the Roman commander ordered him to appear before the Jewish Council. That Council divided between the Pharisees and Sadducees and the Pharisees declared Paul innocent of all charges.

Riot

1. **Neither**. Did Paul deny a riot had occurred? Paul did not deny the riot happened, he denied that he caused it.

2. **Temple**. Paul denied that he defiled the Temple in any way.

3. **Synagogues**. He also denied that he had discussions in the synagogues causing unrest.

4. **City**. He finally denied that he drove the city into an uproar with discussions or bad behavior inciting a riot.

5. **Find**. Paul declared that the Jews did not find him carrying on any discussions or causing a riot.

6. **Discussions**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul challenged the Jews to produce one witness who could truthfully testify that Paul carried on discussions anywhere.

7. **Riot**. We rejoice today because Paul did not cause a riot in Jerusalem, but he was perfectly capable of proving who did start a riot.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul perfectly denied all the charges against him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul challenging the Jews to produce a witness who could truthfully testify that he engaged in discussions or any activity giving rise to a riot.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by carefully choosing our words as we present our defense while counting upon the Holy Spirit to help us with the words to speak.**

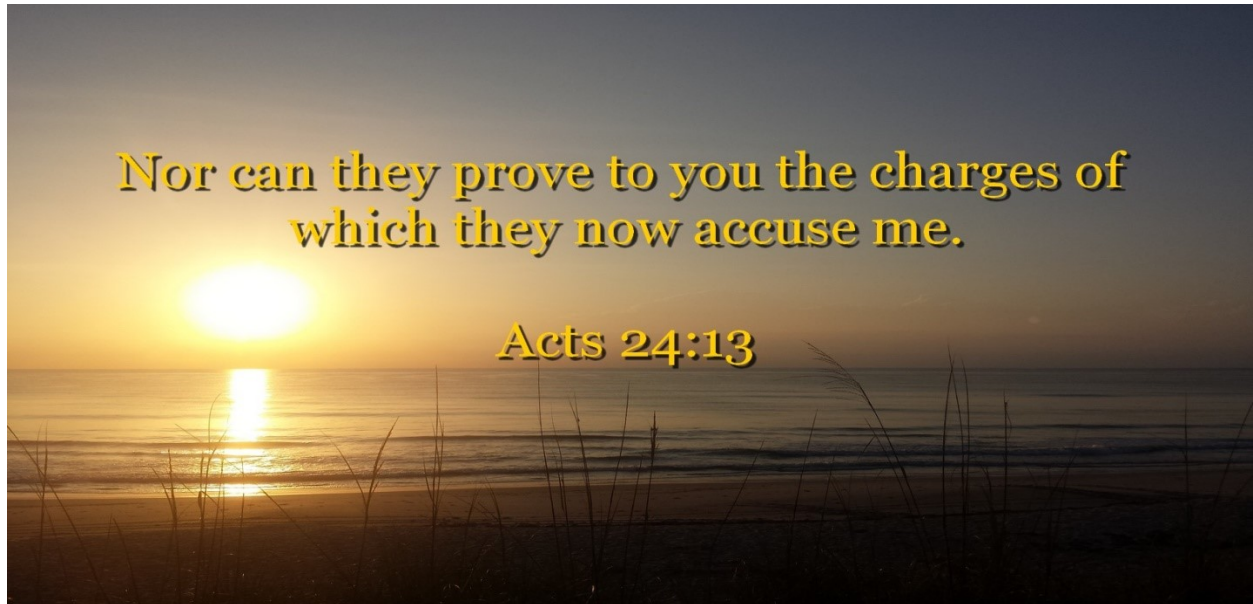
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul defended himself cheerfully before Felix the governor with precise words. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Paul refuted every charge brought by the Jews?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 859

Prove Today



What did Paul say about the charges brought against him? He stated to Felix that the Jews could not prove any of the charges they brought against him.

Paul had supreme confidence that the Jews could not prove a single allegation against him. They charged him with (1) stirring up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world; and (2) trying to desecrate the Temple. They claimed he was a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

The charges they brought against Paul showed that they were religious in nature, and not crimes against Rome. Felix must have understood immediately that the religious charges against Paul did not constitute anything worthy of imprisonment or death, just as Claudius Lysias had indicated in his letter to Felix about Paul.

The Jews also said that Claudius Lysias had interfered with their legal proceedings against Paul. They implied that apart from that interference they would have tried Paul under their religious law and imposed the proper remedy of death.

Paul stood on the most solid legal ground. Not only did he have the law and the facts on his side, but he stood with the blessing of Jesus Christ upon him.

Charges

1. **Nor**. What did Paul want Felix to know about the charges? Paul wanted Felix to know that the Jews could not prove any of their allegations.

2. **Prove**. Paul knew that making allegations was not the same as proving allegations in court.

3. **You**. He also knew that Felix would make the final determination about Paul's guilt or innocence and said to Felix that the Jews could not prove it to him.

4. **Which**. The basic charges which the Jews brought against Paul could not be proven because they were lies.

5. **They**. They had made bold accusations against Paul, but they had no competent witnesses to prove their allegations.

6. **Accuse**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews tried to accuse Paul of serious misconduct, but could not prove it.

7. **Me**. We rejoice today because Paul had every confidence in telling Felix that the charges could not be proven against him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's boldness before Felix.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to provide boldness for us as we speak up for Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He provides courage and strength in times of need.**

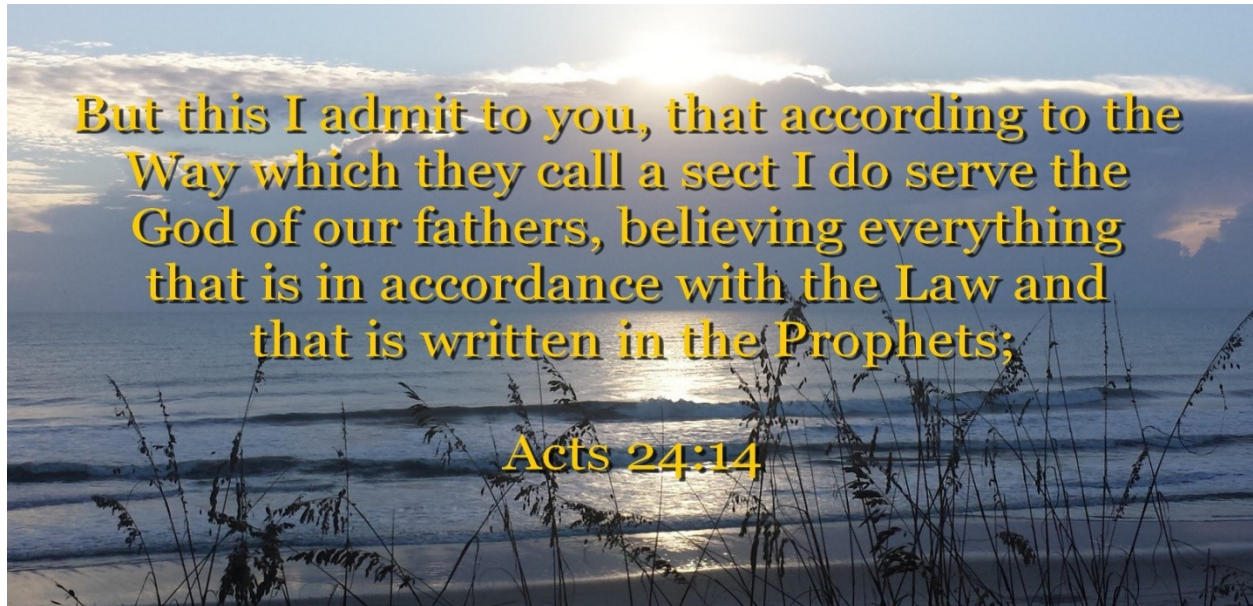
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for providing help for Paul and for us by His grace. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking out boldly for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 860

Admit Today



What did Paul admit to Felix? Paul admitted that he served the God of our fathers.

Immediately Paul turned the tables on the Jews. If they wanted to argue a breach of religious law and custom, then Paul wanted Felix to know that he (1) served the God of our fathers; and (2) he believed everything in accordance with the Law and the Prophets.

With many years of experience judging the nation of Israel, Felix undoubtedly knew about the many sects dividing Judaism. He knew the Pharisees did not get along with the Sadducees. He probably even knew the chief priest and the other elders who had come to prosecute Paul.

Paul turned the legal proceeding into a referendum upon religious sects. Paul claimed that he stood in the mainstream of Judaism and always believed the Law and the Prophets. Paul understood both Roman law and Jewish Law and knew how to frame the religious issues in a way that would make sense to Felix. Paul not only denied all the charges against him, but he also showed that the Jews wanted to fight over religious customs and beliefs

they disagreed with. Substantively, Paul had done nothing to violate Roman law.

Believing

1. **Admit**. What did Paul admit before Felix? Paul admitted that he served the God of the fathers of Israel.

2. **You**. Paul freely admitted that according to the Way, which the accusers called a sect, that to you, Felix, he served the fathers of Israel.

3. **Way**. Jesus called Himself the Way to heaven and His followers were known as followers of the Way.

4. **Call**. Paul mentioned that the Jews called Paul the ringleader of the Nazarenes and also Paul said that they called followers of the Way evil.

5. **Serve**. In contrast, Paul said that he lived to serve the God of the fathers of Israel.

6. **Fathers**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul tied his faith to the faith of the fathers of Israel.

7. **Law**. We rejoice today because Paul declared that he believed everything that is in accordance with the Law and is written in the Prophets.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul said he believed everything in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that religious people call Christians all kind of names and label them as a sect.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by believing everything in accordance with the Law and all that is written in the Prophets.**

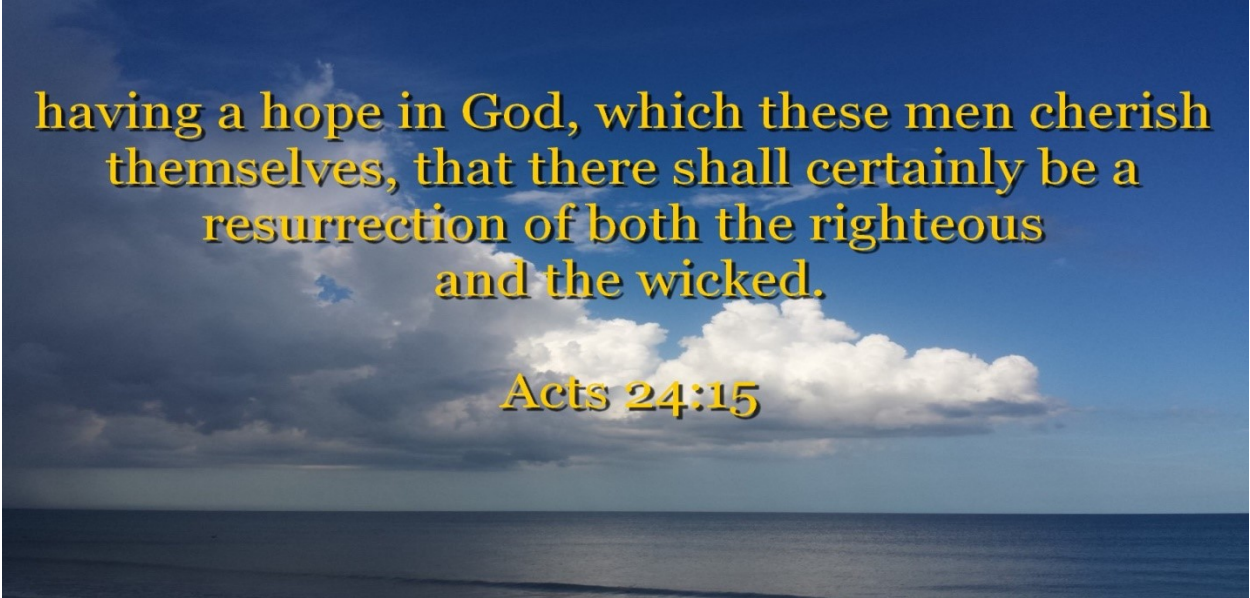
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by believing the Scriptures and letting people know we follow the Bible. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the revelation He provided in the Old and New Testaments?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 861

Hope Today



having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Acts 24:15

How did Paul divide his accusers once again? Paul said that his accusers cherished the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked, knowing that the Sadducees believed in no resurrection.

Paul told Felix that his hope was in God. As Paul cheerfully presented his defense, he said that he hoped in God because he knew there would be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. Paul achieved many goals with those few words.

Paul said that his accusers cherished their hope in God. Paul implied that they also hoped for the resurrection. The chief priests and the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, but the Pharisees did. Previously, the Pharisees had found no guilt in Paul when they examined him in Jerusalem.

Paul also identified himself as someone who believed in the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. Someone like Felix with the most basic knowledge of Sadducees and Pharisees would have known that Paul was now pitting one sect of Jews against another. Paul was also sharing the hope of the resurrection with Felix and stirring the spirit of Felix

to ponder the message Paul was giving to him about resurrection for both the wicked and the righteous.

Resurrection

1. **Hope**. What did Paul say about the resurrection? He said that men hope in the resurrection.

2. **God**. Their hope rested in God.

3. **Cherish**. The men accusing Paul cherished the hope of the resurrection.

4. **Resurrection**. Paul described the resurrection as an absolute certainty.

5. **Both**. In the future everyone will be resurrected.

6. **Righteous**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know the righteous will be resurrected in the future.

7. **Wicked**. We rejoice today because the righteous will be resurrected to joy and happiness, but the wicked will be resurrected for judgment.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by cherishing the hope of the resurrection.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by hoping in God Who will resurrect us one day in the future.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining together with our hope in the resurrection of the righteous.**

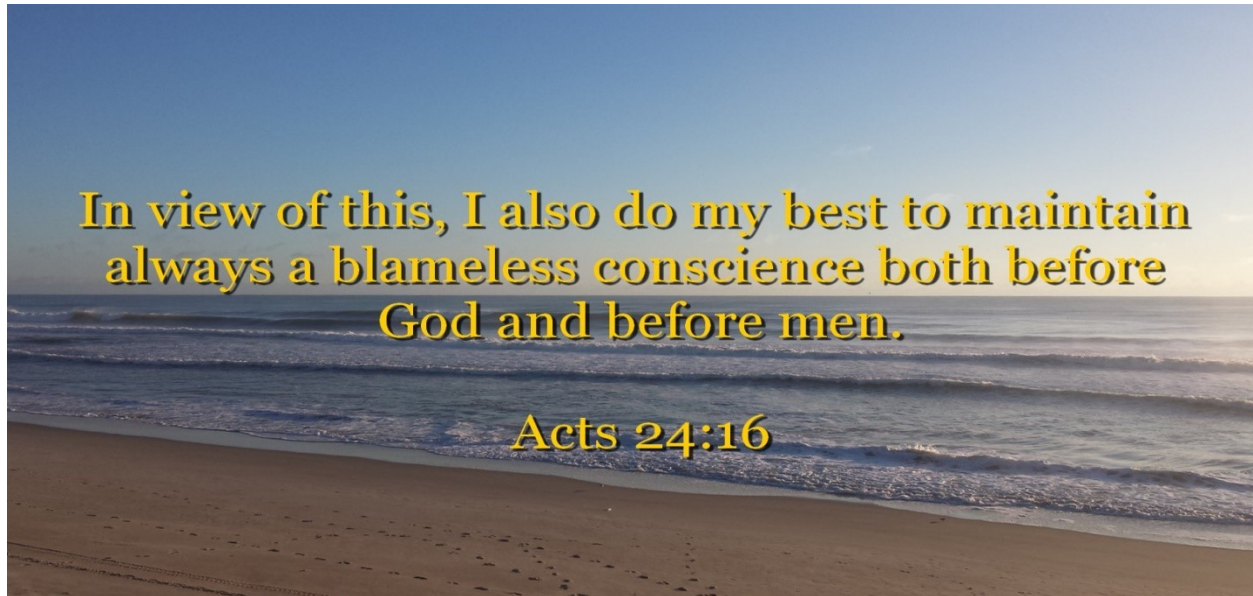
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection for the righteous. Will you live holy in the family of God today by warning people about the resurrection of the wicked to face judgment by God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 862

Blameless Today



What did Paul tell Felix about his conscience? Paul sought to keep a blameless conscience both before God and men.

Paul made his cheerful defense before Felix by emphasizing the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. Therefore, Paul was directly proclaiming to Felix that he would be resurrected too. The question Felix must decide was if God would find him righteous or wicked. Paul had instantly moved beyond Felix sitting in judgment upon him to Felix standing before God in judgment with eternal consequences.

Just as Jesus had commissioned Paul to do, so he was now standing before the governor and proclaiming the resurrection to him. Paul used his defense to present the Lord Jesus Christ to Felix and everyone else in the audience. Every Pharisee present immediately understood that Paul was talking about the resurrection. Every Pharisee also knew that the Sadducees would oppose any talk about resurrection and try to shut it down.

Paul had said the same thing before the Council in Jerusalem. He claimed to live with a clean conscience before God. He told Felix that because

of the resurrection, he tried to live with a clean conscience before God and men. With a few words Paul made a very loud religious statement about eternal life and judgment to come.

Conscience

1. **I**. How did Paul's view of the future affect his present life? He sought to maintain a blameless conscience because of the resurrection.

2. **Best**. He said did his best to live according to his knowledge of future resurrection.

3. **Maintain**. He tried to maintain a good conscience toward God at all times.

4. **Blameless**. Paul highly valued a blameless conscience and so carefully evaluated his behavior moment by moment.

5. **Conscience**. Paul did not want his conscience to hurt because of bad behavior.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that because of our hope in God, we strive to live with a blameless conscience each day.

7. **Man**. We rejoice today because God intends for us to live with a blameless conscience before men today.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking care to live with a blameless conscience before God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by considering God and man when it comes to living with a blameless conscience.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by not offending God or man with evil behavior so that we may be blameless in our conscience.**

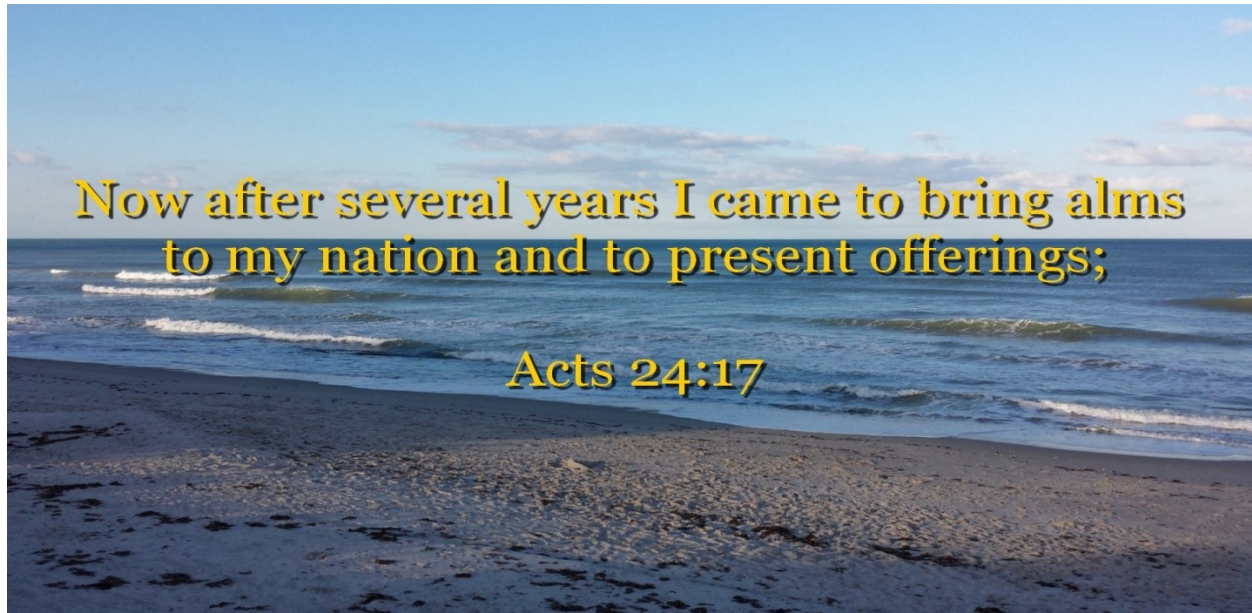
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking care with our conscience as we live before God and man each day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to think about your life and your conscience as you look forward to the resurrection?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 863

Alms Today



How did Paul explain his presence in Jerusalem? Paul said that after several years he came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings.

While the Jews painted Paul as a figure of dissension in opposition to Jewish Law and custom, Paul explained that he came to Jerusalem to follow his religious obligations as a Jew. He came to the Temple after several years abroad.

Having returned to Jerusalem after an absence of several years, Paul came to bring alms to his nation. Paul identified Israel as his nation. Paul also proved his loyalty to that nation by bringing alms for Israel. He was giving money for the support of the poor and the work of God.

Paul just provided an explanation for his presence in the Temple and it sparkled with the light of truth. Paul was not divisive, but an obedient servant of the living God of the Law and the Prophets bringing alms to his nation and offerings to the God of Israel. In other words, Paul was fulfilling the requirements of the Law and acting like any obedient Jew in the Temple.

Despite the claims of his accusers, Paul honored God and believed everything according to the Law and the Prophets.

Offerings

1. **After**. Why did Paul return to Jerusalem? Paul returned to go to the Temple.

2. **Several**. He had been away in Asia and Europe for several years, proclaiming the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Years**. For years he had been traveling from place to place and synagogue to synagogue.

4. **Alms**. Now he was returning back to Jerusalem and brought alms.

5. **Nation**. He brought alms back to Jerusalem for the nation of Israel, indicating his love for his own brethren.

6. **Present**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul came to Jerusalem to present his offerings before God.

7. **Offerings**. We rejoice today because Paul hastened back to Jerusalem for Pentecost so that he could make as offerings to God in the Temple.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul testified before Felix about his alms and offerings, proving that he came to Jerusalem because of his Jewish roots.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God with alms and offerings.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that we no longer need a Temple because Jesus is our sacrifice for sin.**

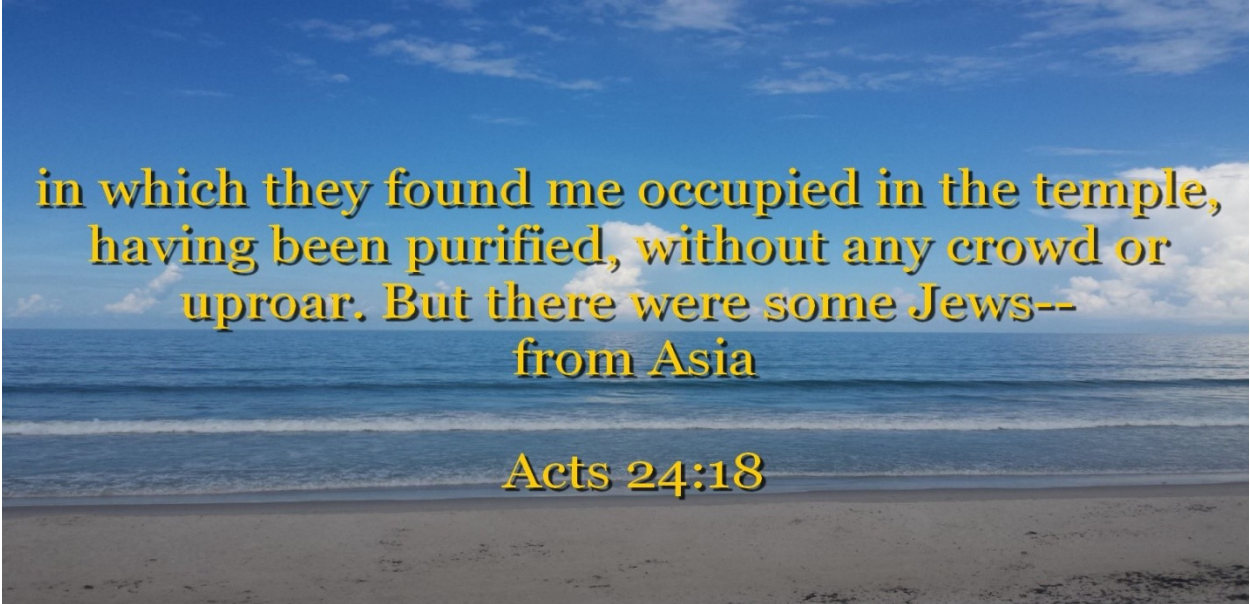
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation in Jesus and giving our lives as an offering for Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving alms and offerings to God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 864

Occupied Today



in which they found me occupied in the temple,
having been purified, without any crowd or
uproar. But there were some Jews--
from Asia

Acts 24:18

Where did the Jews accusing him find him? They found Paul in the Temple bringing his alms to the nation of Israel and making an offering to God.

Paul demonstrated his fidelity to the requirements of the Law before Felix. Paul stated that he had been purified before entering the Temple. He entered the Temple without any crowd or uproar. Paul was a normal Jew following the requirements of the Law by going into the Temple to present alms and his offering to the God of Israel.

While his accusers claimed that he tried to defile the Temple, they obviously did not get the facts straight. Paul was already in the Temple when the problem started. He was there without crowd or trouble, quietly offering his alms and offerings. Paul would not have gone to the trouble of purifying himself according to the Law if he intended to cause trouble in the Temple.

Paul had shown that he had a pure motive for being in the Temple. In order to dispute his testimony, the Jews would have to prove that he had not been purified and that he caused the uproar in the Temple. Paul had also

raised the Asian Jews who came into the Temple and started a riot with their lies about Paul.

Purified

1. **They**. Did Paul cause the uproar? Paul did not cause the uproar because he was already in the Temple before it started.

2. **Found**. His accusers found Paul in the Temple and they could not deny that he was there peacefully.

3. **Me**. He said that when they found me, he was there to deliver alms to the nation of Israel and present offerings to God.

4. **Temple**. Paul had not been to the Temple in years and came back eager to visit.

5. **Purified**. Paul took the time so that he was purified according to the Law before he entered the Temple.

6. **Crowd**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul did not enter the Temple with a crowd or a commotion.

7. **Uproar**. We rejoice today because Paul never caused the uproar, but some Jews from Asia caused the uproar with their lies about him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul purified himself before entering the Temple.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking steps to avoid causing an uproar.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul was not seeking to cause an uproar, but an opportunity to worship God in the Temple in Jerusalem.**

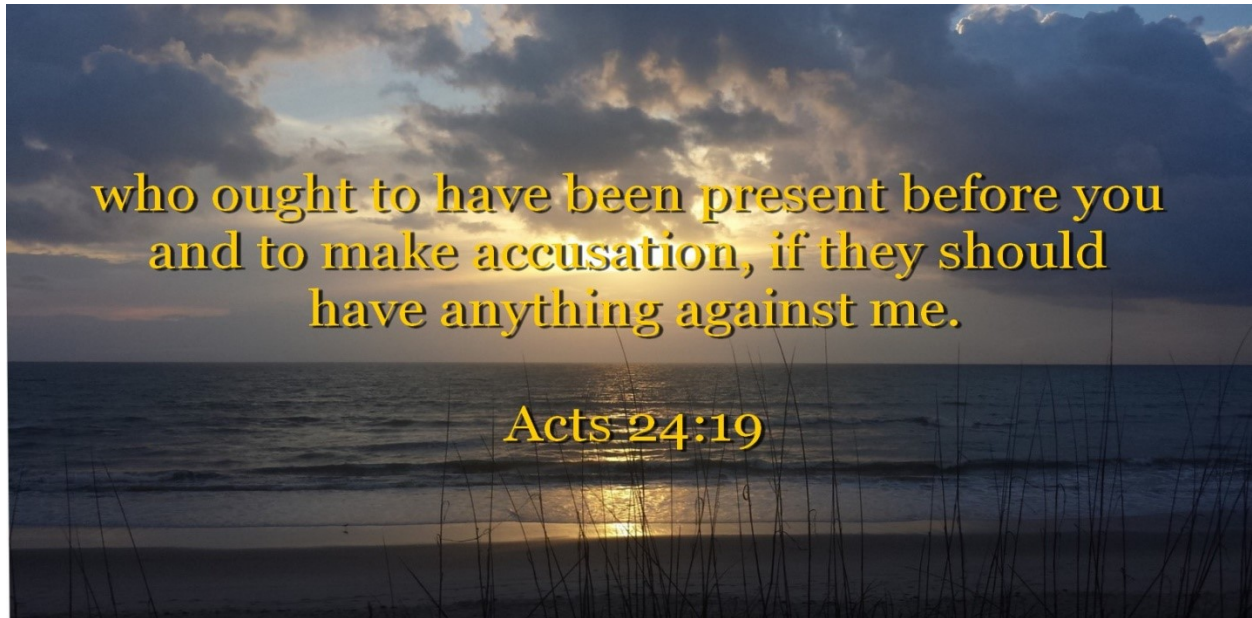
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by being careful not to throw crowds into an uproar by any sinful behavior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that the Lord Jesus Christ has purified us with His blood once and for all?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 865

Present Today



What did Paul say about absent witnesses? Paul said that the Jews from Asia who caused all the trouble with their lies in the Temple should be present to offer testimony and receive cross-examination from Paul.

Paul masterfully undermined the entire case of the prosecution. The key witnesses for the prosecution were absent by choice. Paul had humiliated many opponents with his wisdom and the power of God regarding the Scriptures. Paul had successfully shown in many synagogues that Jesus was the Christ and proved that from the Scriptures. When people argued with Paul in the synagogues, they often became very angry because Paul demonstrated beyond any doubt that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ. Paul had seen violent protests in anger against him in many cities, all because he proved that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ from the Scriptures.

The absence of the Jews from Asia may have been a strategic move by the prosecution. Their mere presence in Jerusalem demonstrated that they had been stalking Paul for quite a while. They sought to kill him because he talked about the Lord Jesus Christ and His love and resurrection. The Jews

from Asia, if they spoke truthfully in court, would provide a complete defense to the accusations against Paul, because they caused the entire uproar with their lies about Paul.

Accusation

1. **Who**. What did Paul say about the Jews from Asia? Paul said they did not appear to make in the accusations against him.

2. **Present**. Paul meant they should have been present because they were the ones who started the riot with their lies about him.

3. **Accusation**. Accusation should always be made by people present at the hearing so their truthfulness could be evaluated by cross-examination.

4. **If**. So, if they had some accusation against Paul, they should have appeared before Felix to give testimony.

5. **They**. They were the critical witnesses in the case and they did not appear on purpose.

6. **Something**. Living holy in the family of God means that if the Jews from Asia had something to say against Paul, they should have come forth and said it in open court.

7. **Against**. We rejoice today because Paul used their absence against them and Felix understood the reason for their absence.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by making sure the truth is known when people accuse us falsely.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking note when the accusers will not come to court.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul exposed the deliberate nonappearance of the witnesses with the most information about what happened and the most culpability for the riot.**

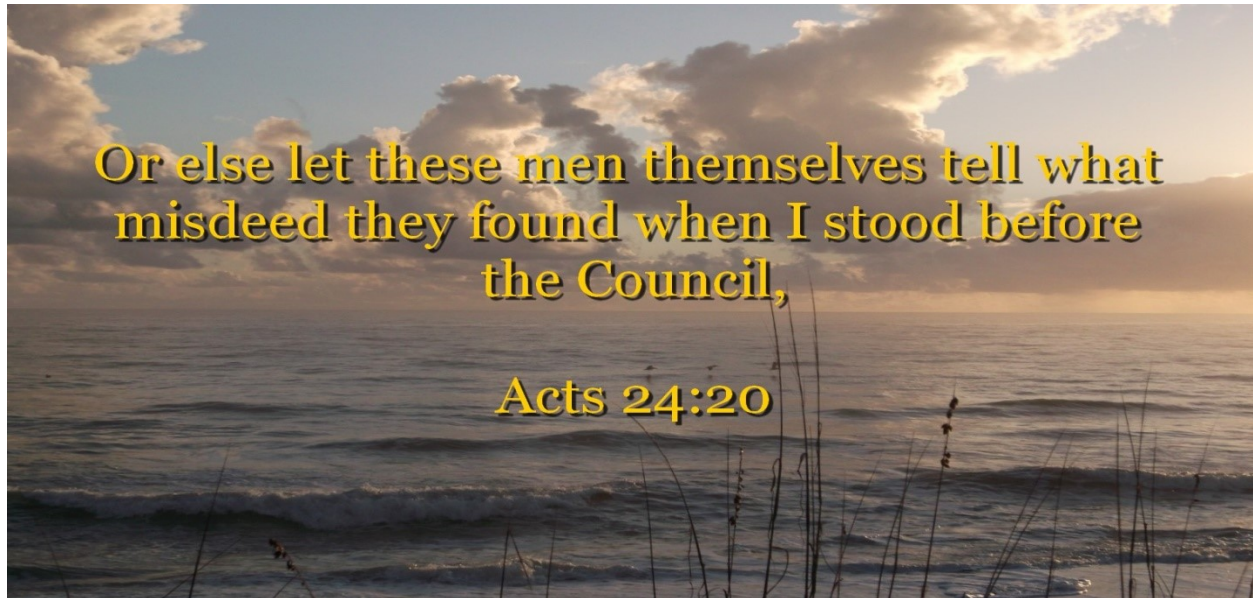
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul pointing out to Felix the witnesses that were not present in court to make accusations against Paul, if they had anything at all to say. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking up for Jesus and exposing witnesses who did not appear in court?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 866

Misdeed Today



Why did Paul mention the Jewish Council? Paul wanted to prove to Felix that he had already stood before the Jewish Council.

In Jerusalem the Roman commander had ordered Paul to appear before the Jewish Council. He hoped to find out what charges the Jews had against Paul. Paul presented his defense and split the Jewish Council between the Pharisees and Sadducees. He said he was on trial for the resurrection and immediately the Council split down party lines between Pharisees and Sadducees. In fact, the Pharisees found that Paul committed no religious offense whatsoever.

Paul systematically dismantled the accusations of the Jews against him. He showed that the key witnesses for the prosecution were not in court because they actually would have been great defense witnesses. Paul was talking about the Jews from Asia who caused the entire turmoil based upon lies. Those Jews from Asia did not appear in court because they did not want to face cross-examination.

Felix understood that the Jews had misled him about what happened with Paul. They could not prove their charges and they were missing key witnesses on purpose. Even so, Felix needed to appease them for political reasons.

Council

1. **Else**. What alternative did Paul propose to Felix about testimony? Paul suggested that the men present testify about his misdeeds.

2. **Men**. The men he was talking about were the chief priest and some elders who are prosecuting him before Felix the governor.

3. **Tell**. Paul invited them to tell their stories.

4. **Misdeed**. He challenged them to present any misdeed that they found in him when he stood before their Council.

5. **Found**. The Pharisees had found him innocent when he stood before the Council.

6. **Stood**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul stood before the Council of his accusers and the Pharisees acquitted him of all charges, but then a huge uproar ensued.

7. **Council**. We rejoice today because the Jews had already examined Paul once before their own religious Council and the Pharisees found him innocent, but the Sadducees wanted to kill him and they almost tore Paul to pieces.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul challenging his accusers to testify about his misdeeds before the Council.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by challenging witnesses with the truth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by relying upon the truth and speaking the truth in court.**

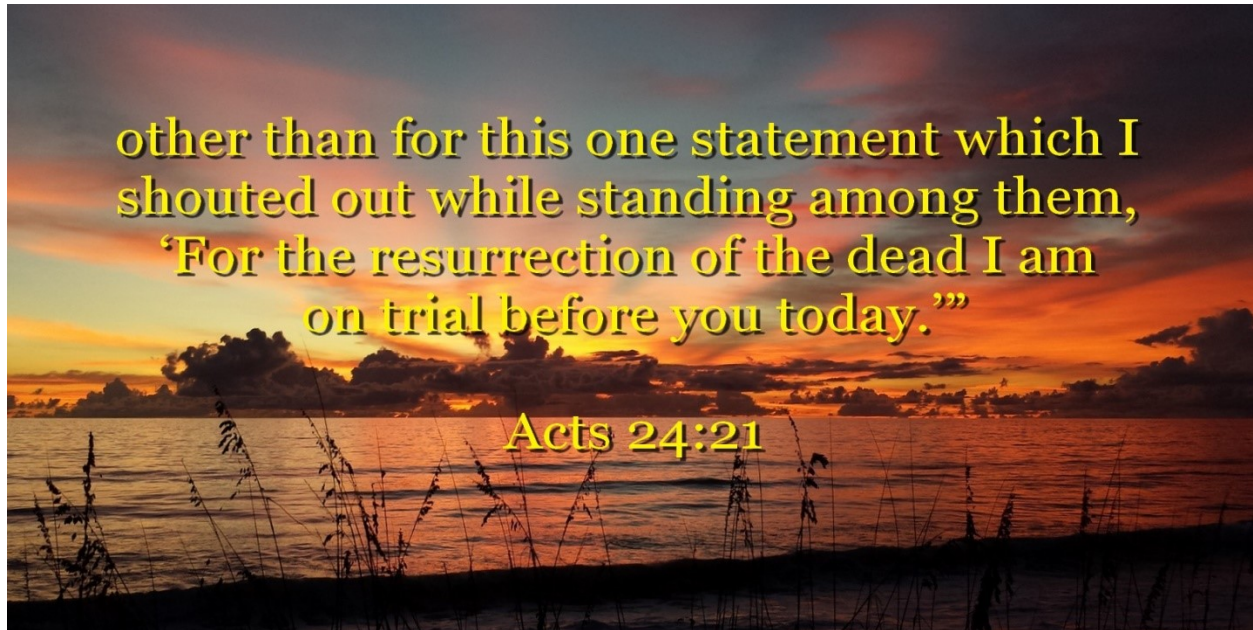
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by telling the truth because it always presents a good testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering to tell the truth and challenge witnesses who lie about you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 867

Resurrection Today



What did Paul shout out before the religious Council in Jerusalem? He shouted out that he was on trial for the resurrection of the dead.

Paul wanted Felix to know that the Jews already tried Paul before the religious Council. That Council divided right down the middle between Pharisees and Sadducees. When Paul shouted out that he was on trial for the resurrection of the dead, all the Pharisees jumped to his defense because they too believed in the resurrection, while the Sadducees did not. In fact, the Pharisees acquitted Paul of all charges.

The Jewish prosecution before Felix had never mentioned that Paul had already appeared before the Jewish Council. They also never mentioned that that whole Council flew into an uproar when Paul claimed he was being prosecuted because he believed and proclaimed the resurrection. Those glaring omissions would have given Felix serious pause for consideration about the prosecution's case.

Paul pointed out to Felix that the Jews prosecuting him lacked credible evidence against him. He also pointed out that it already tried him once in their own religious court without success. In fact, Claudius Lysias could not even understand the charges they were bringing against Paul.

Trial

1. **Other**. What seeming concession did Paul make to the Jews? He conceded that he said he was on trial for the resurrection.

2. **One**. Paul said that is the one statement he made that divided the religious Council.

3. **Statement**. That statement appealed to the Pharisees and enraged the Sadducees.

4. **Standing**. Paul made that statement while standing among the members of the Council.

5. **I**. He declared with a loud voice: I am on trial for the resurrection of the dead today.

6. **Trial**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul changed everything with one statement about his trial before the Council.

7. **Resurrection**. We rejoice today because Paul understood the differences between the Sadducees and the Pharisees and used that crucial difference about resurrection to divide and conquer the Council.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by speaking up for the resurrection of Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that many people deny there is any afterlife and so deny the resurrection of the dead.**

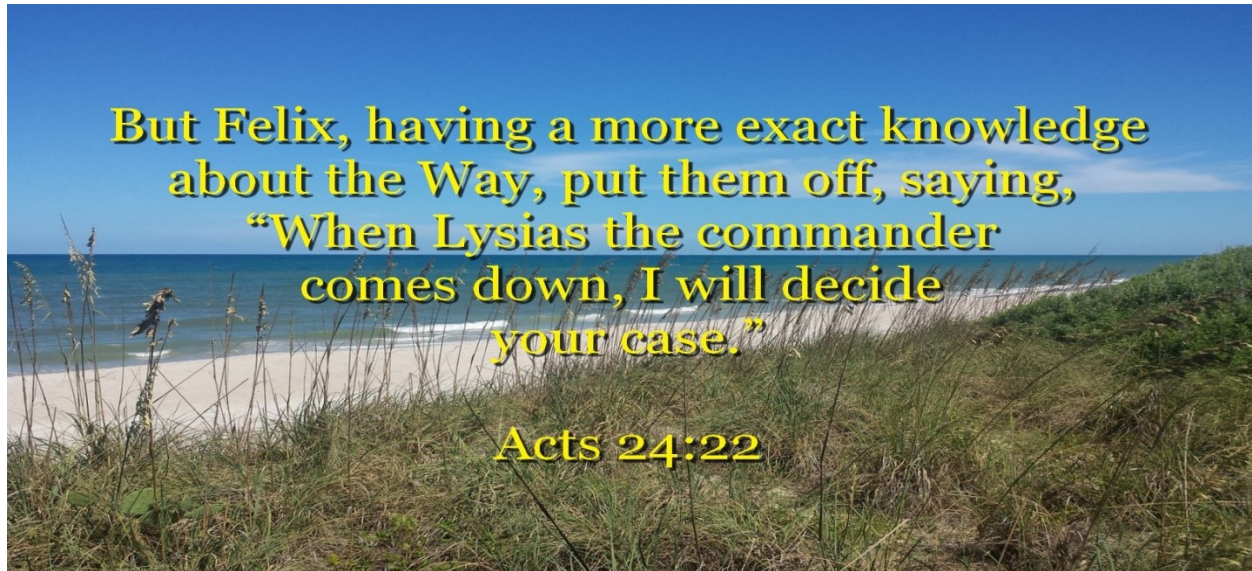
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul turning the trial before Felix into the same trial he had before the religious Council in Jerusalem by proclaiming that he was on trial for the resurrection from the dead. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ every time God presents an opportunity?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 868

Felix Today



What did Felix do? Felix put them off and rendered no decision.

Essentially Paul and the prosecutors had presented opening statements. The Jews obviously could not prove their case, but Felix did not even grasp why the Jews were prosecuting Paul for religious matters. When Felix heard that the Jews had already tried Paul before their own Council, he knew that the Roman commander had delivered Paul from that uproar that ensued because Paul was standing in Caesarea on trial before Felix.

Felix had a more excellent knowledge of the Way. While the Jews complained that Paul was the ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, Felix actually knew about the Way. Therefore, Felix was stuck between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, the Jews had no evidence against Paul. On the other hand, Felix needed to maintain good relationships with the leaders of the Jews. He could not simply dismiss all the charges against Paul.

Felix saw a way out of his predicament. He could keep Paul in custody and continue the trial until Claudius Lysias appeared. Claudius Lysias could provide a lot of information about what happened because he was an

eyewitness. Undoubtedly, the Jews did not want Claudius Lysias to appear. They had already complained about the conduct of the Roman commander.

Knowledge

1. **Felix**. Why did Felix continue the trial? Because he wanted Claudius Lysias to come down from Jerusalem and provide testimony and then he would decide the case.

2. **Exact**. Felix had a more exact knowledge of the Way.

3. **Knowledge**. Paul had stated in his opening before Felix that he had experience judging the nation of Israel and Paul counted upon that knowledge.

4. **Way**. The early followers of Jesus were called the Way, and Felix knew that Paul was a follower of the Way, not a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

5. **Off**. Felix put them off because he had already seen that there was no easy way to resolve this dispute.

6. **Lysias**. Living holy in the family of God means that Felix continued the trial until Lysias could come down and provide greater insight and so we learn that justice delayed may be no justice at all.

7. **Decide**. We rejoice today because Felix did not make any rash decisions, but said he would decide the case when Lysias came to town and appeared before the court.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Felix pushing things off until later.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering God's plan for Paul to present the Gospel to many people in authority and delay may open up new doors for testimony.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by living each day according to the timeline that God provides for our lives.**

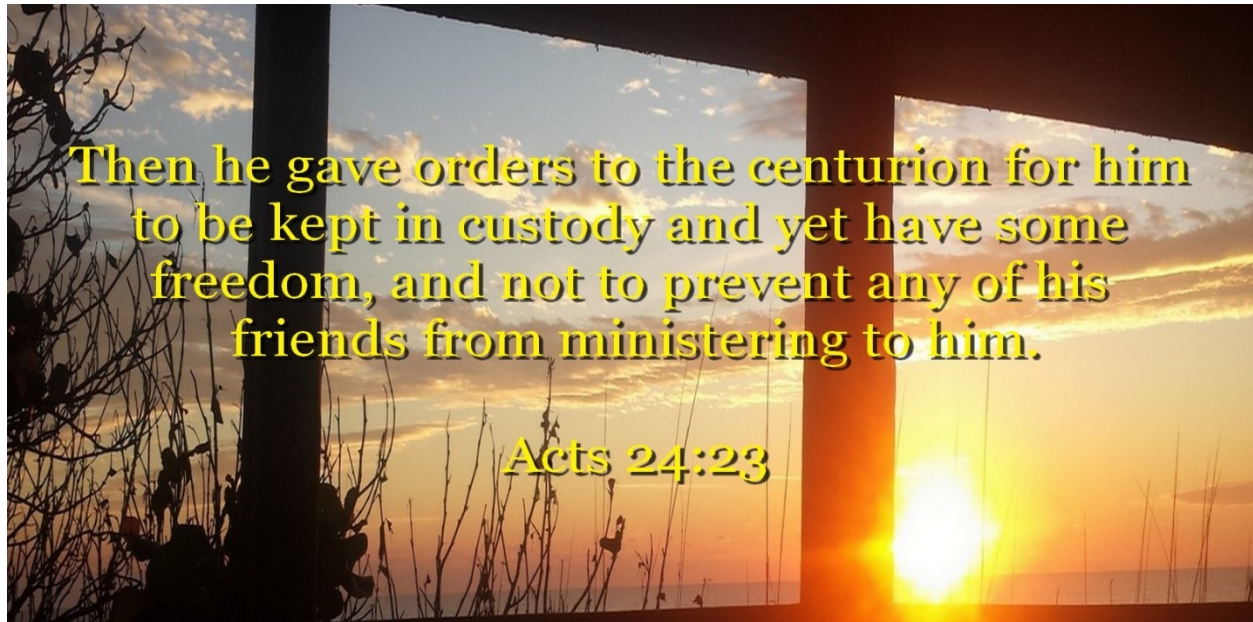
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He moves in the hearts of judges to learn more before passing sentence. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for Felix wanting to hear more from Paul over time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 869

Orders Today



What orders did Felix give about Paul's custody? Paul was to be kept in custody, but with some freedom.

Felix had obviously concluded after the first hearing that Paul posed no threat to anyone. Felix also understood that the Jewish leadership demanded that he take some action to punish Paul. Ideally, Felix would turn Paul over to the Jews so that they could impose their will upon Paul.

Based upon his knowledge of the Way and the proceedings before him, Felix knew he could not release Paul into Jewish custody. One way or another, the Jews were likely to kill him. Felix had to keep Paul in custody for his own protection.

Like many judges, Felix tried to split the baby. He kept Paul in custody, temporarily pleasing the Jews, but also granted him some freedom. Felix ordered the centurion looking after Paul to let his friends minister to him. Paul could not be released, but Felix took steps to make sure Paul was as

comfortable as possible while he was held in custody. For the time being, Paul remained safe but without full freedom.

Some Freedom

1. **Orders**. What orders did Felix give to the centurion? He ordered Paul to be held in custody.
2. **Centurion**. A centurion had been detailed to guard Paul.
3. **Kept**. The effect of Felix's order was to keep Paul in custody, although he had been staying at Herod's Praetorium.
4. **Custody**. Paul was kept in legal custody, pending further trial.
5. **Freedom**. Felix also granted Paul a measure of freedom.
6. **Friends**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that God provided access for Paul's friends to come and see him while he was held in custody.
7. **Ministry**. We rejoice today because Paul's friends had access to him so that they could minister to his needs while he was held in custody awaiting further trial.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul was still held in custody, although the evidence at trial suggested he was innocent of all charges.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus had put Paul into custody so that he would be a witness for Him to people in authority.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His plans to use our lives even when we are in government custody.**

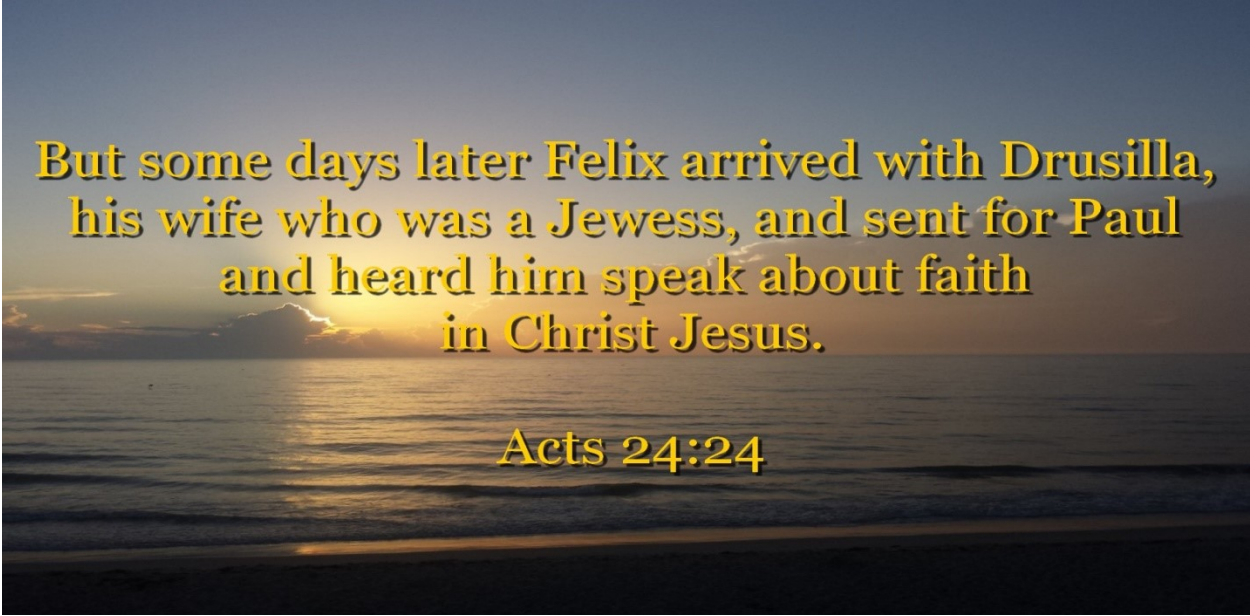
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never forgetting that Paul spoke up for Jesus, even when he was in custody. Will you live holy in the family of God today by ministering to saints in custody for their faithful proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 870

Drusilla Today



But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.

Acts 24:24

Who was Drusilla? Drusilla was the wife of Felix and she was a Jewess.

When Felix arrived with Drusilla, he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. Time after time the prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled. While in Rome in custody, Paul had repeated opportunities to talk about Jesus Christ with many powerful Romans.

At Caesarea Paul spoke to Felix and Drusilla. Jesus had said that Paul would be His witness before many Roman authorities. Paul now got to explain the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Felix and Drusilla. He emphasized faith in Christ Jesus, just as he had proclaimed in Europe and Asia for years.

Paul had said before entering Jerusalem that he knew that chains awaited him in Jerusalem. He told his friends that he was willing to lay down his life for the Lord Jesus Christ and did not back down from going into Jerusalem knowing what awaited him there. Paul had testified before the Roman commander, the high priest, the elders, the Sadducees, the Pharisees

and the religious Council before testifying before Felix and Drusilla and everyone else watching the proceedings in Caesarea.

Jewess

1. **Felix**. Who was Drusilla? Drusilla, the Jewess, was the wife of Felix.
2. **Drusilla**. When Drusilla arrived, they wanted to hear more from Paul.
3. **Sent**. They sent for Paul so that they could talk with him.
4. **Paul**. Paul had been commissioned by Jesus to be His witness to many people in authority as Paul wended his way through the legal system of Rome.
5. **Heard**. Felix and Drusilla heard Paul, because they were eager to learn more about the Way.
6. **Speak**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul took the opportunity to speak up for Jesus Christ and be a witness about how he had met Jesus and then became a follower of the Way.
7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus had outlined to Paul His plans to use Paul as His witness throughout the Roman legal system.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Felix and Drusilla wanted to hear more from Paul about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by presenting such good testimony in court that the judge wants to hear more from you with his wife out of court.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by bearing cheerful testimony about Christ that people do not forget what you said and want to hear more about Jesus.**

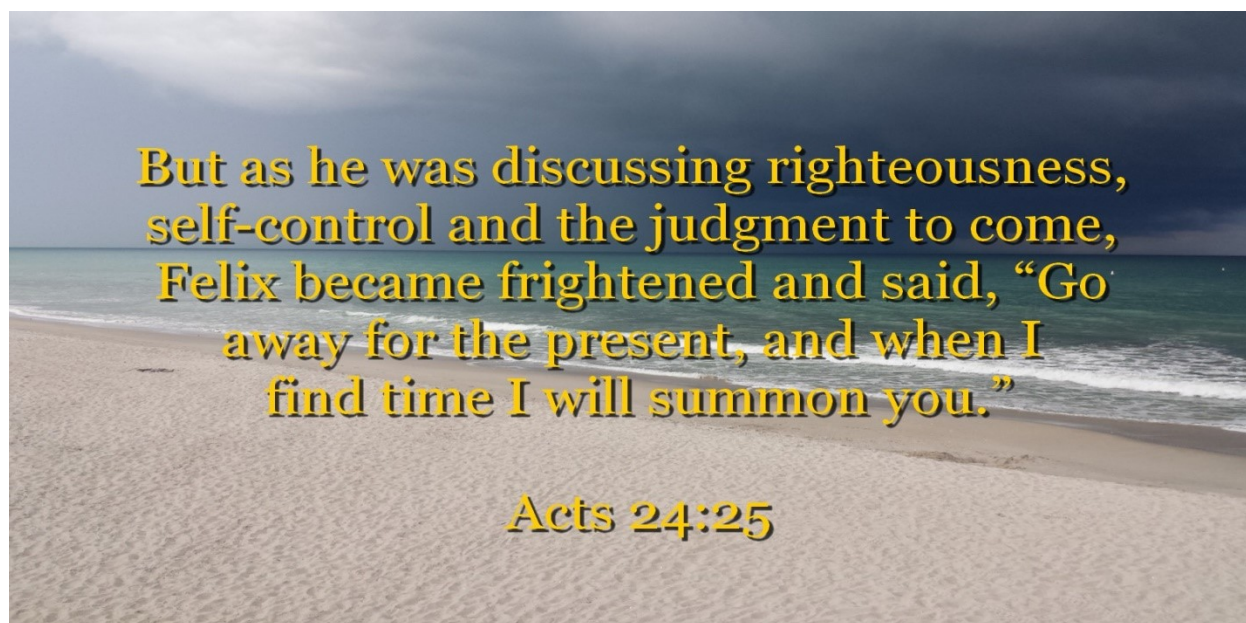
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting Jesus to open doors for testimony about Him to people in authority. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never overlooking opportunities to speak up for Jesus, even if you are in custody of the government?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 871

Righteousness Today



Why did Felix tell Paul to go away? Paul was talking to him and he became frightened.

Paul used his opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to his captors and others in authority. When Felix and his wife Drusilla called him for a meeting, Paul was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come. Hearing Paul proclaim those things, Felix became frightened.

Paul had the power of the Holy Spirit working in him when he proclaimed the Scriptures. His opponents could not cope with the wisdom of God at work in him. They often became very angry and tried to kill him. In this case, Felix became frightened. Felix had heard Paul mention the resurrection and declare that he was on trial for the resurrection. Felix was familiar with the Way, but had never heard Paul apparently proclaim Jesus from the Scriptures.

Paul showed Felix that he would be resurrected and then face judgment. Anyone who takes judgment seriously must understand that God

judges sinners and imposes the death penalty upon them unless they have been reconciled to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ during their lifetime on earth.

Frightened

1. **Discussing**. What did Paul discuss with Felix? Paul discussed deep spiritual matters with Felix.
2. **Righteousness**. Paul discussed righteousness with Felix, pointing to the Christ as the One who makes us righteous by faith alone.
3. **Judgment**. Paul also described judgment, in the context of we will all face judgment by God one day in the future.
4. **Felix**. Paul also told Felix about self-control.
5. **Frightened**. Having heard Paul speak about self-control, righteousness, and judgment to come, Felix became frightened.
6. **Go**. Living holy in the family of God means that Felix became frightened from Paul talking about deep spiritual matters with him so that he told Paul to go away.
7. **Summon**. We rejoice today because Paul spent time with Governor Felix, talking with him about the Lord Jesus Christ and spiritual things. Felix became so frightened that he told Paul to go away and he would summon him later.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by talking to people about self-control, judgment to come, and righteousness.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that some people will become frightened as they contemplate the judgment to come.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Felix had passed judgment upon many people, and yet feared judgment from God concerning himself.**

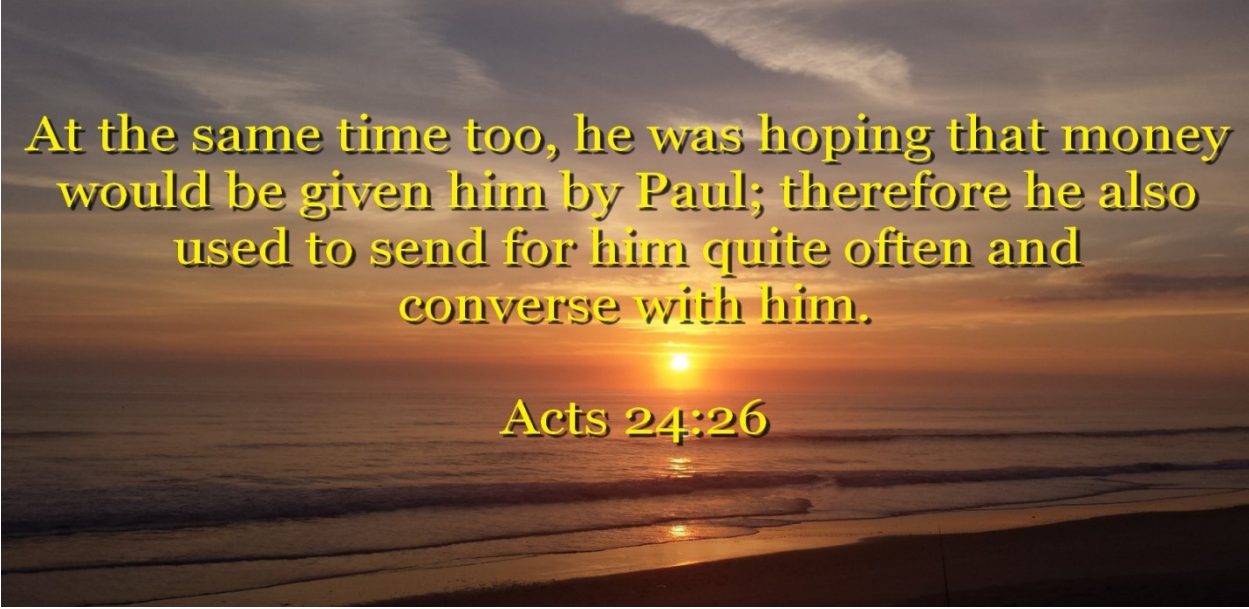
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by warning people about the judgment to come in the future. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that some people will become frightened as they hear about judgment to come?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 872

Hoping Today



At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and converse with him.

Acts 24:26

What was Felix hoping about Paul? Felix was hoping that Paul would give some money to buy his freedom.

The Lord Jesus Christ had commissioned Paul to speak before all these authorities in the Roman government and elsewhere. Paul fully understood his duty to faithfully proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul presented a cheerful defense before Felix. Paul was not scared and frightened by the Roman court system. His chains did not quench his enthusiasm for living.

Paul wrote many epistles while he was imprisoned. Just because he was held captive by Romans, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was not imprisoned. Paul would be survived by many disciples in many churches in many places that would continue the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth. Paul had proclaimed the gospel faithfully in Europe and Asia and now throughout the Roman court system.

For Paul, to die was gain, but to live on in the flesh would bring benefits to all the people that he discipled. Paul said he was hard-pressed about

whether to go and be with the Lord or to remain on in the flesh. Paul spoke often with Felix.

Often

1. **Time**. What was Felix hoping? Felix was hoping that Paul would give him some money for his release.

2. **Hoping**. Felix was a crooked politician and a biased judge, because he was hoping Paul would buy his way out of confinement.

3. **Money**. Felix kept hoping that Paul would give him some money.

4. **Paul**. Felix kept hoping for money and kept sending for Paul so they could talk.

5. **Send**. Felix would send for Paul so that they could get together.

6. **Often**. Living holy in the family of God means that Felix often sent for Paul not so much to hear from Paul, but to receive some money.

7. **Converse**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ provided many opportunities for Paul to converse with Felix about spiritual things.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting that crooked judges will expect payment for release.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting Jesus rather than bribing judges.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul talking about spiritual things with Felix quite often.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by recognizing the opportunities that God provides for us to talk to people in authority about the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being prepared for God to arrange appointments for you to talk about spiritual things with people?

HALLELUJAH!

10

Festus

Today

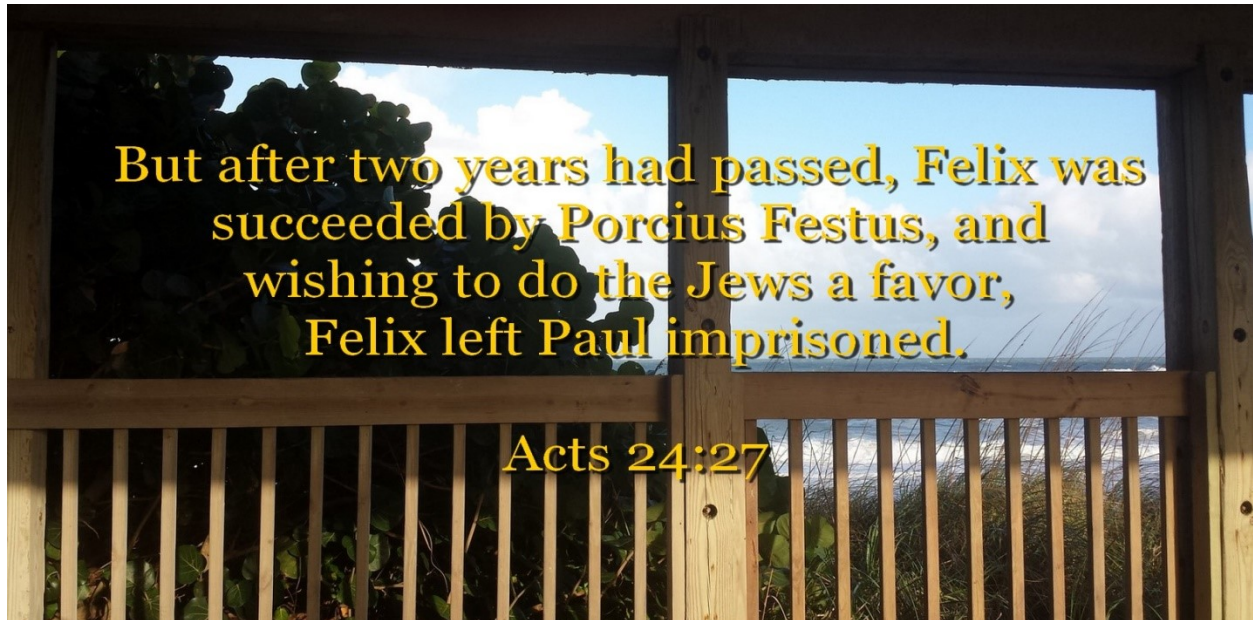
Festus arrived in Caesarea and soon after went up to Jerusalem. The chief reason was the leading men brought charges against Paul and requested that Festus bring Paul back to Jerusalem for trial before the religious Council. Festus declined the request then invited them to Caesarea to bring charges against Paul.

The Jews came down to Caesarea and brought charges against Paul. They could not prove their charges and Paul denied he had done anything wrong against the law of Caesar or the Jews. Paul declined going back to Jerusalem and standing trial there and so appealed to Caesar. Festus granted his request.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 873

Favor Today



What happened after two years of being held captive in Caesarea? Porcius Festus succeeded Felix as governor.

Felix curried favor with the Jews. He knew they hated Paul. He wished that Paul could have bribed his way out of prison, but Paul refused to do so. Instead of offering a bribe to Felix for release, Paul met with Felix frequently and proclaimed Christ to him.

Felix wanted to do the Jews a favor. Therefore, he left Paul in prison at Caesarea. The Jews had already won something of a victory over Paul, because he had been incarcerated there for two years. Felix said when Claudius Lysias came down from Jerusalem, then he would continue the trial. Clearly, Felix had no interest in continuing the trial, but he did like talking to Paul.

During his imprisonment at Caesarea, Paul apparently had access to his friends who could come and minister to him. During the course of those two years Paul continued his ministry of discipleship. You may recall that at

midnight in Philippi, Paul and Silas were singing hymns from the prison cells.

Imprisoned

1. **Two**. How long was Paul left in custody by Felix? Two years.
2. **Succeeded**. After two years, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus.
3. **Festus**. Festus was taking over the governorship of the province which included Israel.
4. **Wishing**. Felix wanted to do the Jews of favor upon his exit from office.
5. **Favor**. Felix had already confined Paul for two years without a trial on the merits. Felix favored the Jews at Paul's expense.
6. **Paul**. Living holy in the family of God means that just as Jesus prophesied, Paul was imprisoned for his faith.
7. **Imprisoned**. We rejoice today because Felix left Paul in prison, but Paul's work of proclaiming Christ continued right on while he was imprisoned.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the opportunities He gives us to talk about Him and His great love.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never succumbing to the weight of circumstances so that we always stand tall for Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God used Paul to talk to Felix and others for two years at Caesarea.**

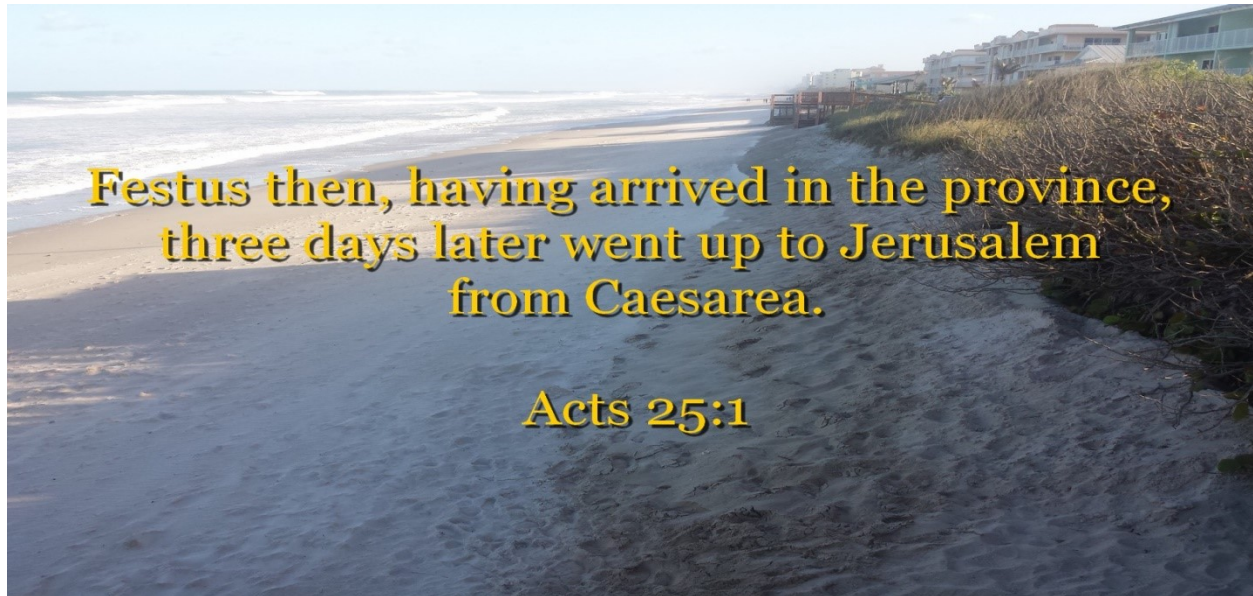
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the people who summon us to talk to them about the Lord Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by recognizing that God plans for us to speak up for Him as He arranges the circumstances for us to meet people?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 874

Festus Today



When did Festus go up to Jerusalem? He went up to Jerusalem three days after arriving in the province.

Felix had left Paul imprisoned at Caesarea because he wanted to do the Jews a favor. Roman governors always held political office, in a sense. If they wanted a higher rank, they would have to rule their province well. In order to rule their province well, they needed a good working relationship with the people of that province, particularly the leaders of that province. In this case, Israel was a religious province and finding favor with the religious leaders of Israel would go a long way towards establishing peace in the province.

Festus went up to Jerusalem three days after arriving in the province. He wanted to make friends with the Jews and their leaders early on. He would also be inclined to grant them a few favors to improve his relationship with them. Generally, no one liked a ruler that had taken them captive by force and subjugated them to the rule of Rome. The Romans had a large garrison in Jerusalem of more than 450 soldiers, but that does not mean Rome liked to flex its military muscles unnecessarily.

Paul was a Roman and, therefore, had legal rights as a citizen. Festus had a greater interest establishing a good rapport with the nation of Jews than protecting the rights of a lone Roman citizen.

Arrived

1. **Festus**. What did Festus do when he came to the province? He spent three days in Caesarea before leaving for Jerusalem.

2. **Arrived**. Festus arrived in Caesarea to succeed Felix as governor of the province.

3. **Three**. Festus spent three days in Caesarea settling in there.

4. **Province**. Festus and taken over being governor of the province of Judea and needed to pay his respects to the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem.

5. **Up**. So he went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with the leaders of Judea.

6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus went up to Jerusalem to get to know the Jews.

7. **Caesarea**. We rejoice today because while Paul remained at Caesarea under arrest and awaiting trial, Festus was going up to Jerusalem to make friends there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide opportunities to speak up for Jesus even during difficult times.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul being left by Felix so that now he would meet Festus as the new governor.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following Jesus each day, even when it seems that things are not moving along as we would like.**

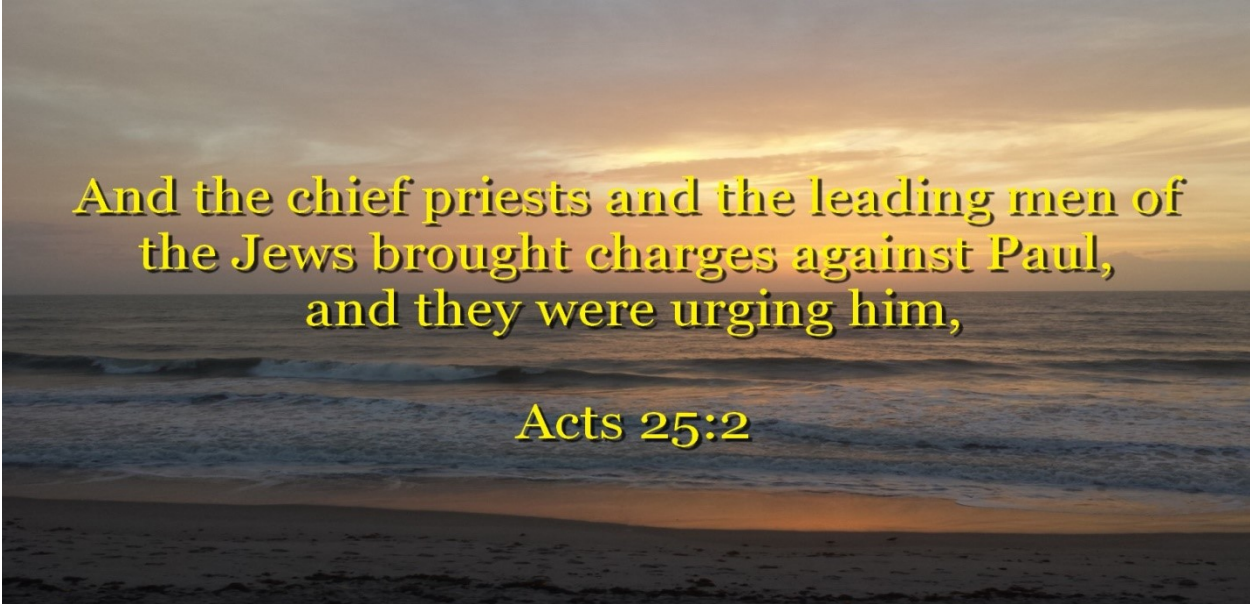
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Paul would have more opportunity soon to share the gospel with Festus and others. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising Jesus that Paul now had new opportunities to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with Festus and others?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 875

Priests Today



And the chief priests and the leading men of
the Jews brought charges against Paul,
and they were urging him,

Acts 25:2

What did the chief priests and leading men of the Jews do? They brought charges against Paul and were urging Festus to do what they asked regarding Paul.

Felix did the Jews a favor by leaving Paul behind in prison. Felix did not do Festus a favor by leaving Paul behind in prison at Caesarea. Festus now had to deal with the Jews who wanted a certain outcome regarding Paul, but Festus still had to protect the legal rights of Paul the accused.

The Jews really wanted to kill Paul one way or another. Previously they had set an ambush to kill Paul on his way to the Jewish Council in Jerusalem. Their planned ambush of Paul certainly involved killing some Roman soldiers guarding Paul. Festus had to make some very hard choices about what to do with Paul.

The Jews wanted to have a new trial governed by their Council in Jerusalem. They saw an opportunity to kill Paul again, perhaps by ambush. Claudius Lysias was very astute and took to heart the warning he received regarding the Jews and their conspiracy to kill Paul by ambush on the way to

the Council. Festus may not have known the intricacies about bringing Paul to Jerusalem to stand trial before the Council. The Jews were hoping for another chance to ambush Paul. The only question would be if Festus would fall for their trap.

Urging

1. **Priests**. What did the chief priests and leading men do to Paul? They brought charges against Paul before Festus.

2. **Leading**. The leading men of the Jews joined with the chief priests to bring charges against Paul, who had been sitting in confinement at Caesarea for two years, awaiting trial.

3. **Jews**. The Jews could not prove the charges in the first trial with Felix and he continued the trial to a later date.

4. **Charges**. Festus wanted to understand the gravity of the charges against Paul.

5. **Paul**. Paul remained at Caesarea awaiting a trial that never came under Felix.

6. **Urging**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews were still thirsting for the blood of Paul and were urging Festus to do their will.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because the Jews were urging him to give them another chance to try Paul in Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the schemes of the Jews to find a way to kill Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul trusted Jesus to bring him through a two-year imprisonment in Caesarea.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that for two years in Caesarea Paul spoke to many people about the Lord Jesus Christ.**

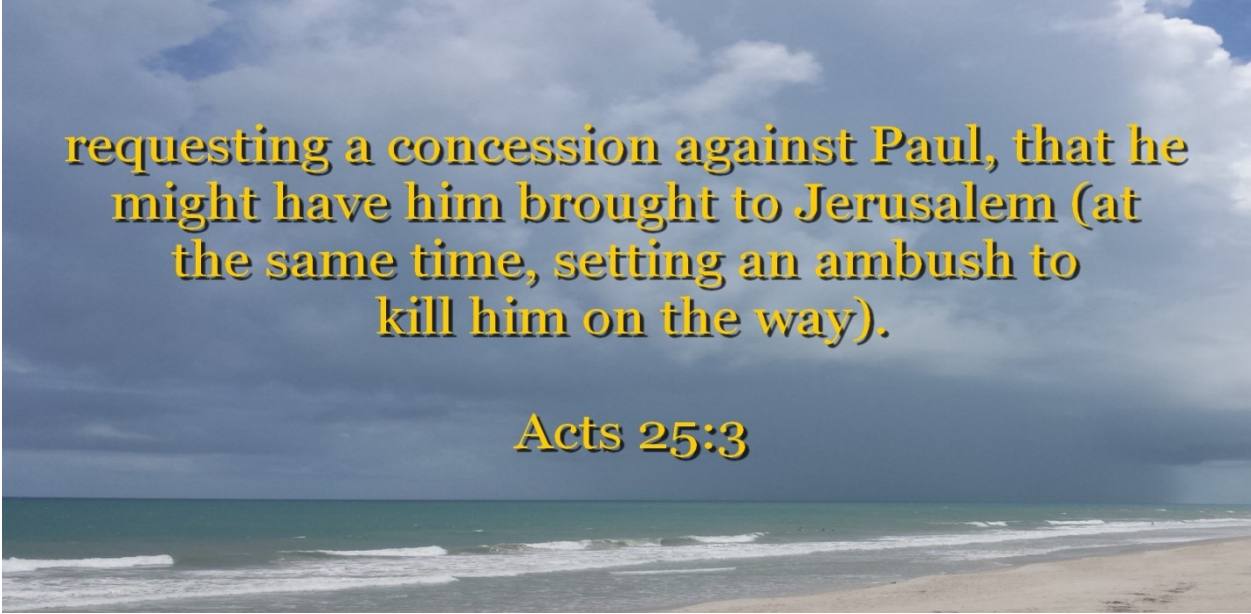
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by making the most of the circumstances we encounter as we follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His mercies which are new every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 876

Concession Today



requesting a concession against Paul, that he might have him brought to Jerusalem (at the same time, setting an ambush to kill him on the way).

Acts 25:3

What were the Jews planning to do with Paul? They still planned on ambushing Paul and killing him.

When Festus arrived in Jerusalem, the Jews brought charges against Paul. They also sought a concession from the new Roman governor, Festus. They wanted Paul brought back to Jerusalem to stand trial before the religious Council. Using that as a pretext, their real plan was to ambush Paul and kill him on the way. They had used the same scheme before, but a young man informed the Roman commander about the scheme before they could accomplish it. That prompted Claudius Lysias taking Paul to Caesarea that night accompanied by over 450 soldiers.

The Jews thought they could use the same scheme and it might work with Festus. Knowing that the Roman governors always wanted to curry favor with the Jewish leadership, they plied Festus with their request for a concession about Paul. They really wanted to kill Paul by any means. The chief priests and the leading men of the Jews were all involved in that murderous scheme.

Ambush

1. **Requesting**. What did the Jews request from Festus? They requested a concession against Paul.
2. **Concession**. Because Festus was a new Roman governor, they sought a concession from him.
3. **Paul**. They wanted Festus to give them an opportunity to kill Paul.
4. **Brought**. They wanted Paul brought to Jerusalem for trial, or so they said.
5. **Setting**. In fact, they wanted to set an ambush for Paul.
6. **Ambush**. Living holy in the family of God means that history repeated itself with the Jews seeking to ambush Paul while he was in Roman custody.
7. **Kill**. We rejoice today because Paul was the target of the Jews even after years of confinement in Caesarea because they still wanted to kill him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that enemies do not always give up easily.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He is stronger than our enemies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to deliver us from our enemies.**

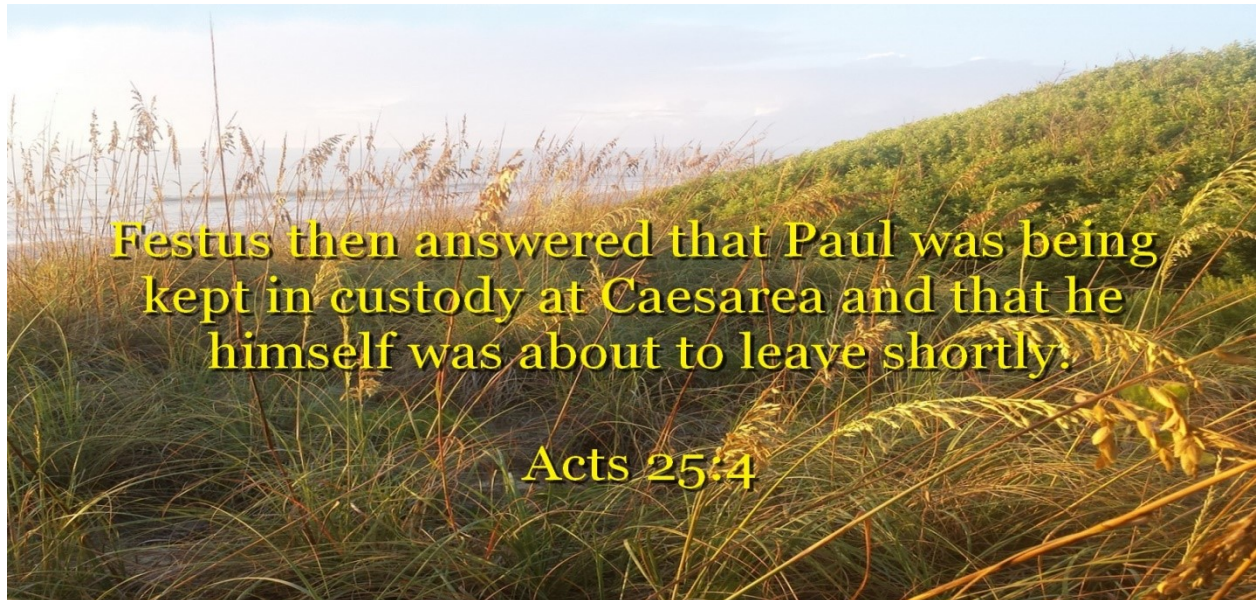
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the many ways He thwarts the plans of the enemy. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering to pray for people you know who face spiritual attack from the enemy?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 877

Kept Today



How did Festus respond to the request from the Jews? Festus said that Paul was kept in custody at Caesarea and he was returning there soon.

Festus, being a Roman politician, did not immediately deny their request. He felt some pressure to grant their concession and deliver Paul to them. He had no desire to keep Paul in custody longer. Felix had left Paul for someone else to deal with, namely Festus. One way or another, everyone knew that Paul was guilty of nothing worth death or imprisonment.

Festus had gone up to Jerusalem just three days after arriving in Judea. He was making the political rounds and trying to establish working relationships in the province he governed. Festus needed the support of the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem a lot more than he needed the support of one prisoner held for two years, or so he thought.

Like so many government officials, they had no regard for the kingdom of God and servants like Paul. The Roman government had killed the King of kings, Jesus of Nazareth. They had also opposed releasing Paul for more than

two years and never brought his case to trial. Festus opted for passive appeasement of the Jews at the expense of Paul's freedom.

Custody

1. **Festus**. How did Festus reply to the Jews' request for a concession against Paul? He told them that Paul was held in custody in Caesarea.

2. **Answered**. Festus answered the Jews obliquely.

3. **Paul**. He reminded the Jews that Paul was still in custody in Caesarea.

4. **Custody**. About two years before, the Jews had been to Caesarea to accuse Paul before Felix.

5. **Caesarea**. Paul had been under arrest and held in Roman custody for two years at Caesarea.

6. **Leave**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus wanted the Jews to know that he was leaving for Caesarea.

7. **Shortly**. We rejoice today because Festus did not oblige the Jews by bringing Paul to Jerusalem, but let them know he was leaving shortly for Caesarea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how Festus handled the Jews' request for a concession against Paul so that he did not deny the request nor grant the request.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God Festus did not immediately hand over Paul to the Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God our Savior Who delivers us from the evil one.**

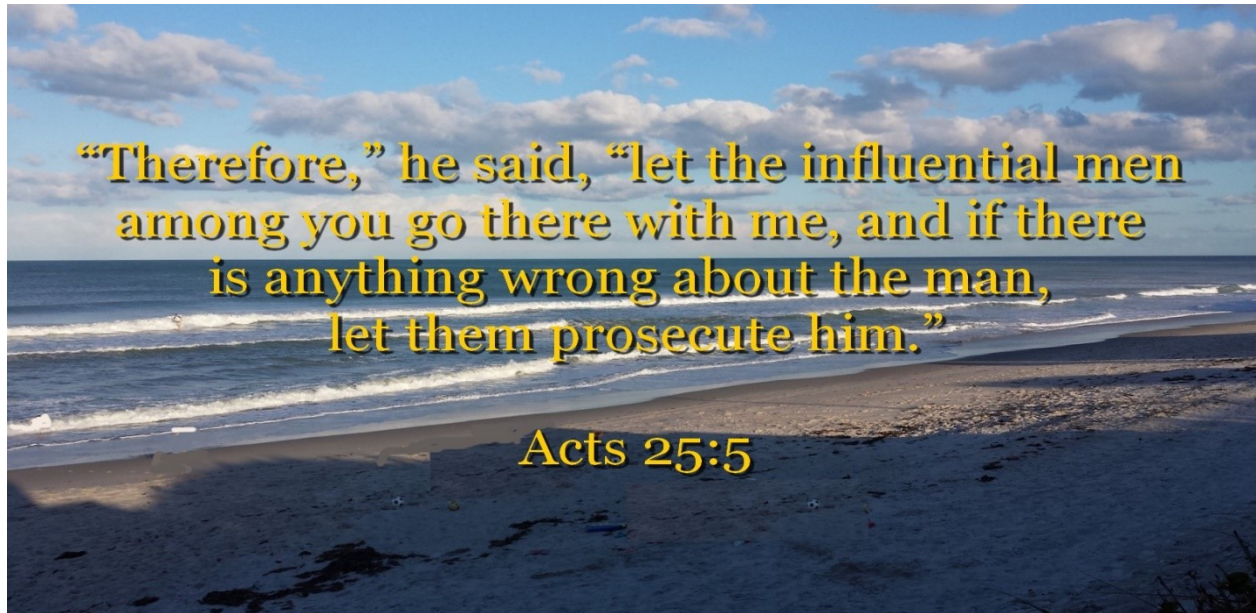
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the enemy tells lies and constructs schemes to oppose the will of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God intended for Paul to spend considerable time in Roman custody so that he could share his faith in many different ways?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 878

Wrong Today



What solution did Festus offer? He offered the Jews to come down and prosecute Paul at Caesarea.

The Jews had sought a concession from the new governor, Festus. They wanted Paul returned to Jerusalem for prosecution before their religious Council. Of course, they actually wanted to kill Paul by laying an ambush for him before he ever reached Jerusalem.

Festus tried to accommodate them by allowing them to bring charges in Caesarea and his court, not theirs. Roman jurisdiction and venue issues were not so much the issue here. The Jews had very limited jurisdiction over religious matters and had their own guards for the Temple.

This whole scenario had played out about two years before. The Jews used the pretext of examining Paul before their Council, but they actually wanted to ambush him on the way there and kill him. Festus wanted to give them a trial but on Roman terms in a Roman court.

The Jews could have their day in court, once again. They only had to appear in Caesarea with Festus presiding. Paul could be prosecuted there if he had done anything wrong.

Proscute

1. **Therefore**. What conclusion did Festus reach? He concluded that he was better off leaving Paul at Caesarea, at least temporarily.

2. **Influential**. Festus, however, invited the Jews to join him in Caesarea.

3. **Go**. They could go with Festus as he returned to Caesarea.

4. **Me**. Festus made the invitation quite personal, indicating they could go with me.

5. **If**. Festus also expressed some doubt, by using the phrase: if there is anything wrong with Paul.

6. **Wrong**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews were convinced that Paul had done wrong, but they were wrong about Paul breaking the Law of Moses.

7. **Prosecute**. We rejoice today because the Jews had another opportunity to prosecute Paul, which presented Paul with another opportunity to talk about Jesus before the new governor and others.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding how plans for evil God can use for good.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that no one outsmarts God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that evil plans never bear good fruit in this life or the next.**

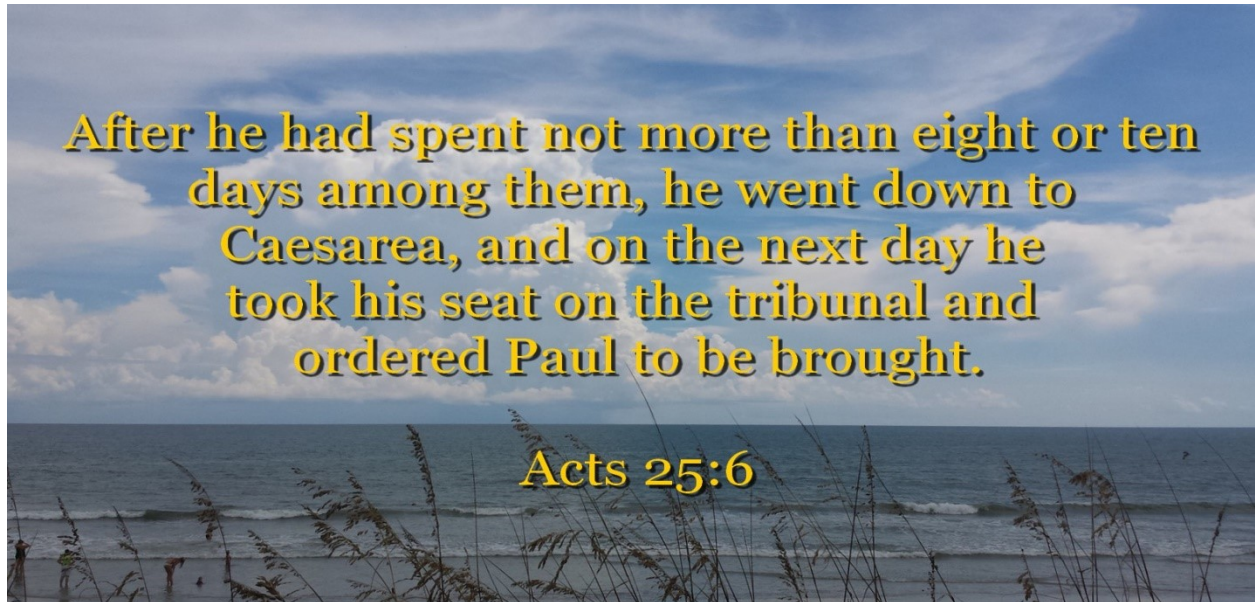
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that Festus did not immediately capitulate to the demands of the Jews. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Paul had to face the Jews at trial in Caesarea more than once because God wanted Paul to have more opportunity to present the gospel to the Roman authorities and others?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 879

Caesarea Today



Did Paul get his day in court? About 8 to 10 days later, Festus took a seat on the tribunal in Caesarea and ordered Paul to be brought before the court.

The Jews sought a concession from the new governor, Festus. He offered them a compromise where they could come down to Caesarea and prosecute Paul. Festus made good on his promise and convened court with Paul present about 10 days after he made his offer.

Paul had been tried before tribunals before. He had appeared before Felix and the Jews brought a lawyer and accused him about two years before. Felix continued the trial until Claudius Lysias could come down to provide evidence. Apparently, Claudius Lysias had other business because he did not come for two years. Actually, Felix was hoping Paul would bribe his way out of custody.

Paul now faced the Jews again in court. The judge had changed. The Jews were now prepared to bring many charges against Paul. They had

learned that merely bringing religious charges against him did not obtain the outcome they sought. They wanted Paul to die one way or another.

Tribunal

1. **After**. Why was Festus sitting on the tribunal in Caesarea? He sat on the tribunal to hear charges against Paul.

2. **Days**. After eight or 10 days, Festus heard the charges against Paul.

3. **Caesarea**. He had returned with the Jews to Caesarea where Paul was held in custody.

4. **Seat**. By taking a seat on the judgment seat, Festus sat for judgment upon Paul.

5. **Judgment**. Sometimes called the tribunal, Festus sat on the judgment seat, indicating he was ready to hear the charges against Paul.

6. **Ordered**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus ordered that Paul be brought to judgment, but Paul knew that he was following the orders of Jesus to be a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because Paul once again had a public opportunity to testify about the Lord Jesus Christ and His great love for people.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by seeing the circumstances facing us as part of God's plan for our lives as we serve Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul was only on trial for his work for Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that we will face persecution of one form or another as we live to please Jesus Christ.**

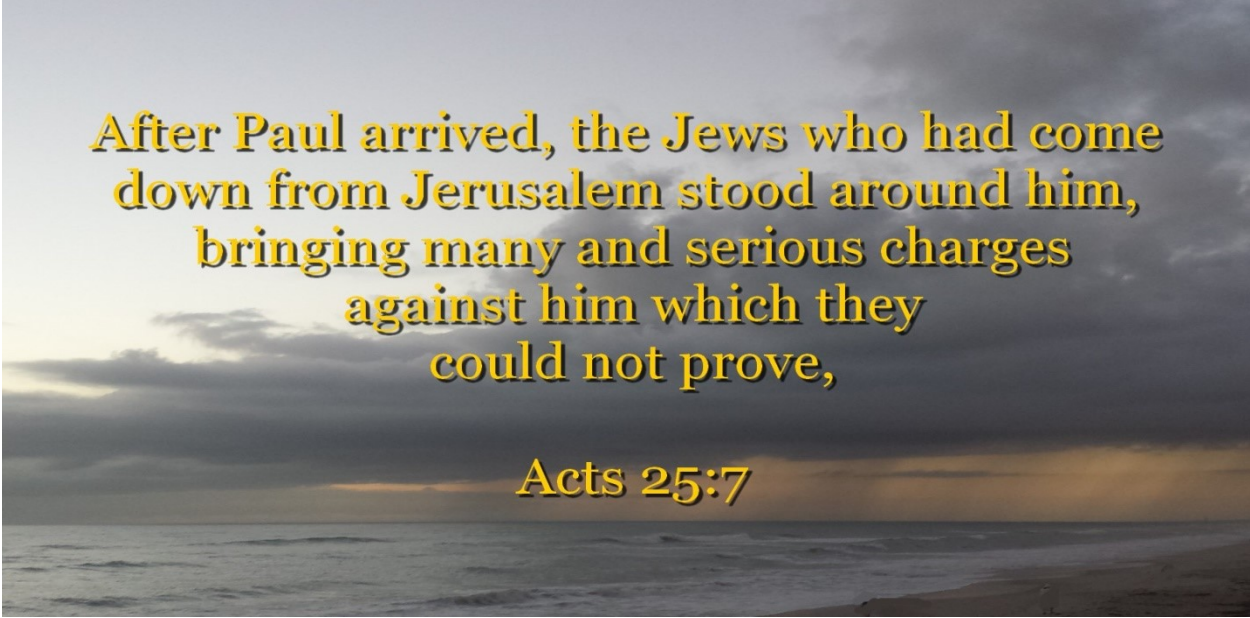
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising Jesus for helping us through many trials and tribulations we suffer for His sake. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His great care and compassion for all His children who suffer for Him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 880

Charges Today



After Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him which they could not prove,

Acts 25:7

What did the Jews do when Paul arrived in court? They brought many charges which they could not prove.

The Jews came down from Jerusalem. Festus had offered them an opportunity to accuse Paul in court while he presided in Caesarea. The parties had gone through the same exercise about two years before. They appeared before Felix, the predecessor to Festus. They could not prove their charges then and they could not prove their charges later.

The Jews brought many serious charges against Paul. They had learned from their dealings before Felix that mere religious allegations did not persuade Felix to act. Therefore, they charged Paul with more serious crimes, hoping that Festus would take action against Paul. Of course, the Jews could not prove their charges at any time. In their first attempt, Paul pointed out to the court that the crucial witnesses were not present in court. He also showed that their own Council had failed to convict him of any charges when he appeared before that Council previously. Paul based his defense on the fact that he was being tried for the resurrection, which he proclaimed

frequently. Many Jewish religious leaders rejected any idea of resurrection, while others in power believed in resurrection.

Prove

1. **After**. What charges did the Jews bring against Paul? They brought many serious charges against Paul.

2. **Paul**. Paul was on trial for the resurrection and his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Jews**. With the Jews standing around him, Paul was fully prepared to present his defense.

4. **Stood**. The Jews stood for evil religious leaders attacking Jesus and His church.

5. **Many**. Although the Jews brought many charges against Paul, they had to prove them to the satisfaction of Festus.

6. **Charge**. Living holy in the family of God means that God allows evil men persecute Christians even in court.

7. **Prove**. We rejoice today because the Jews were not able to prove any of the charges against Paul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for sustaining us through the persecutions evil men inflict upon Christians.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the way the Jews stood around Paul accusing him of serious crimes.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon other believers to pray for us and encourage us during times of persecution.**

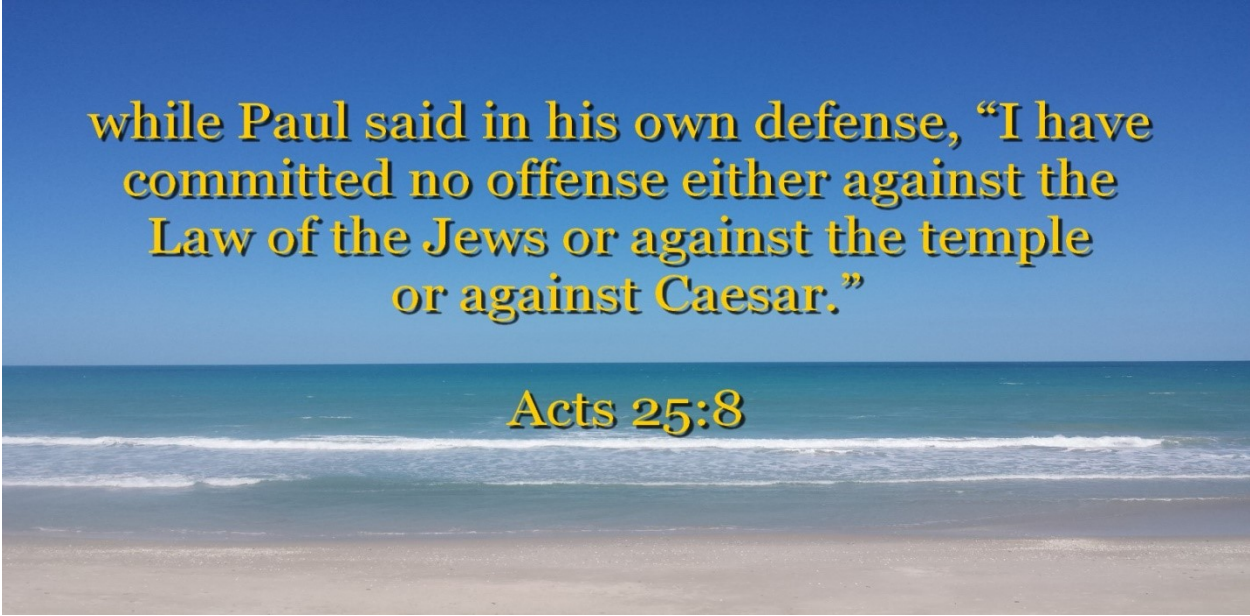
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus Christ for all opportunities to speak for Him and endure persecution to follow. Will you live holy in the family of God today by lifting up Christians suffering for their faith today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 881

Defense Today



while Paul said in his own defense, “I have committed no offense either against the Law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.”

Acts 25:8

What did Paul say in his own defense? Paul denied committing any offense against the Law of the Jews or against the Temple or against Caesar.

The first time the Jews accused Paul before Felix, they focused upon religious charges against Paul. With the new judge Festus they brought charges against Rome as well as religious charges. Paul denied that he committed any offense against the Law of the Jews or against the Temple or against Caesar.

Paul made a flat denial of all charges against him. Because we now see that the Jews charged him with crimes against Caesar, we know they were seeking for the Romans to impose the death penalty upon him.

Jesus had explained to Paul that he would be His witness to many people in authority and that, ultimately, he would end up in Rome. Every Roman citizen has the right to appeal to Caesar as the final authority. Paul still had a way to go as he journeyed through the Roman legal system.

Festus, the new governor, wanted to do the Jews of favor. He had put them off by requiring them to come to Caesarea to accuse Paul. They were still seeking a favor which Festus had not granted to them yet.

No Offense

1. **Paul**. What did Paul say in his own defense? Paul denied all the charges the Jews brought against him, both religious and secular.

2. **Defense**. Paul flatly denied any illegal activity of any kind in making his defense.

3. **Committed**. Paul contested every charge contending that he committed no offense.

4. **Offense**. The Jews charged him with three basic offenses.

5. **Moses**. First, they claimed he broke the Law of Moses and encouraged others to do so.

6. **Temple**. Living holy in the family of God means that they also charged Paul with defiling the Temple by bringing a Gentile into it.

7. **Caesar**. We rejoice today because although they charged Paul with breaking the law of Caesar, Paul denied all and challenged them to prove any of their accusations with competent, substantial evidence.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proving the charges against us are false.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting the enemy to tell lies in court because they are children of the devil, the father of lies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God helped Paul with his defense before Festus.**

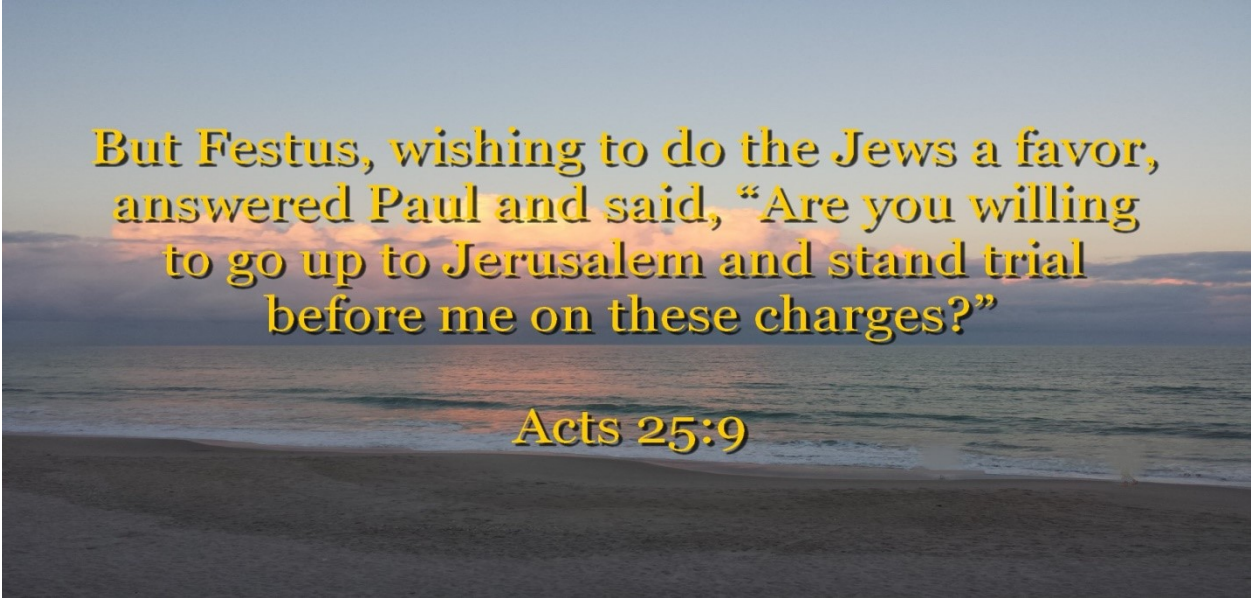
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul was a witness for Jesus Christ in court. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for Paul's truthful testimony in court before Festus?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 882

Festus Today



But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me on these charges?”

Acts 25:9

What favor was Festus inclined to give to the Jews? He was willing to send Paul back to Jerusalem to stand trial before the Jewish Council.

Paul knew that the Jews had tried to ambush him previously. Therefore, any trip back to Jerusalem would be fraught with many dangers. Furthermore, he knew that the Jews would not give him a fair trial.

Festus had put himself in an awkward position. When the Jews asked for a concession from him in Jerusalem, he ordered them to appear in Caesarea to bring accusations against Paul. Having heard the accusations in Paul's summary defense, he was suddenly willing to send Paul back to the Council in Jerusalem. Festus clearly did not want to be involved in this case against Paul in any way, shape or form.

Festus was hoping that Paul would agree to go back to Jerusalem and the matter could be settled there. Festus did not look forward to holding Paul in custody for the future. He had ordered the Jews to appear and accuse Paul, but Festus understood quickly that this was a religious grudge match for the Jews.

Answered

1. **Festus**. How did Festus try to solve Paul's problem? Festus wanted to send Paul back to Jerusalem for trial there before the Jewish Council.

2. **Wishing**. Festus made that offer because he wanted to do the Jews a favor.

3. **Jews**. The Jews had sought some concession from Festus because he was the new governor of Judea.

4. **Answered**. Festus had answered the claim of Paul that he was innocent of all charges.

5. **Willing**. When Festus asked Paul if he was willing to return to Jerusalem for trial there, Paul knew for sure that that would end in his death, one way or another.

6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul was keenly aware of the motives of the Jews in seeking Paul's transfer back to Jerusalem because they had tried to ambush him before.

7. **Trial**. We rejoice today because Paul did not return to Jerusalem for trial because God had other plans for him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by glorifying God for leading us out of trouble.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for giving Paul the wisdom to know that he should not return to Jerusalem for trial.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following God's leading and not capitulating to evil forces.**

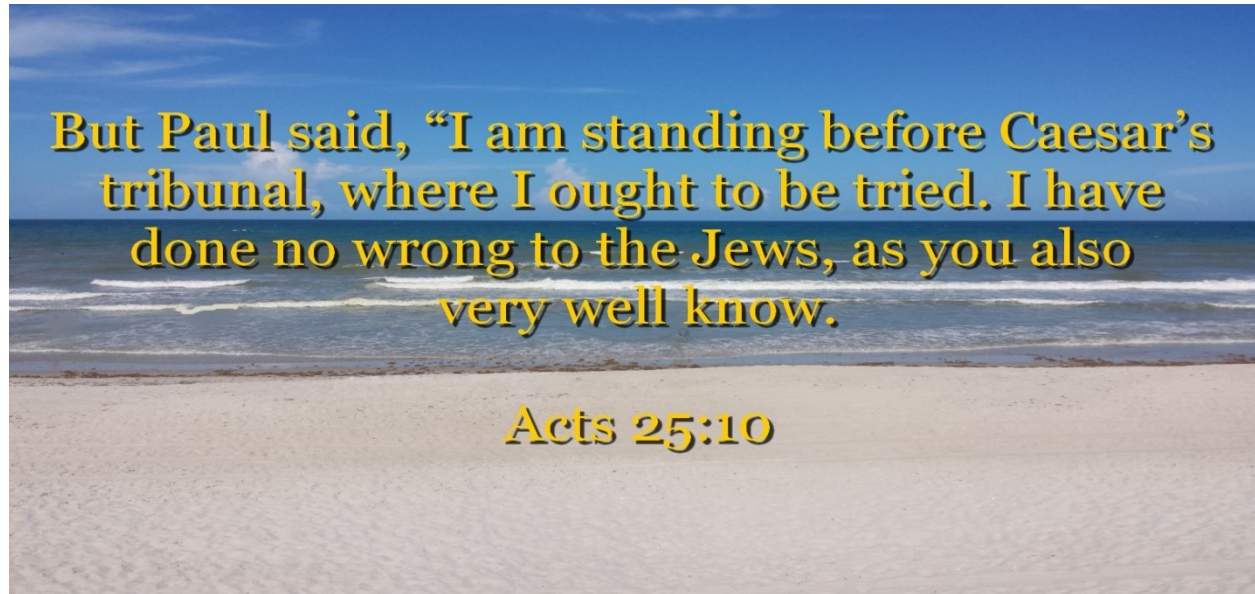
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul had the wisdom to avoid returning to Jerusalem for trial. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the wisdom He gives us a just the right time and place?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 883

Caesar's Tribunal Today



What did Paul say to going back to Jerusalem? Paul said he was standing before Caesar's tribunal, where he should be tried.

As a Roman citizen, Paul availed himself of Roman legal rights. He had every right to be tried by a court of Rome with a Roman tribunal applying the law of Rome. The Jews had accused him of crimes against Caesar, thus invoking the jurisdiction of the Roman court. Therefore, Paul was under no legal obligation to go to Jerusalem and submit himself to the jurisdiction of the Jewish Council.

Festus appeared quite content for Paul to end his days in Jerusalem at the hands of the Jews. He knew their deadly animosity against Paul and was willing to do them a favor by offering Paul to them on a legal platter. One way or another, Festus wanted to get rid of Paul. He could not find Paul innocent of all charges and release him, because that would infuriate the Jews and sour relations with them at the beginning of his governorship. Festus needed to find some escape route from the problems he had created. Festus knew that Paul had done no wrong.

Festus could not release Paul and he was unwilling to convict Paul, because Paul was right in that the Jews could not prove any of their charges. What was Festus to do?

Tried

1. **Paul**. How did Paul answer the question of Festus? He stated that he was already in the proper place to be tried.
2. **Standing**. Paul was standing before Festus.
3. **Caesar's**. Festus was the appointed official by Rome to govern Judea.
4. **Where**. Therefore Paul was already standing where he was to be tried by Caesar's tribunal.
5. **I**. Paul declared that I am standing in just the right place right now.
6. **Ought**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul knew he ought to be tried before Caesar's tribunal, and not before the Jews who were biased and repeatedly trying to kill him.
7. **Tried**. We rejoice today because Paul was tried before Caesar's tribunal, but it was the right place for him to be tried and he knew it.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Paul's strength given to him by the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting Jesus to give us strength to face our adversaries as well.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by delighting in the power of God as He guides us through our lives, through thick and thin.**

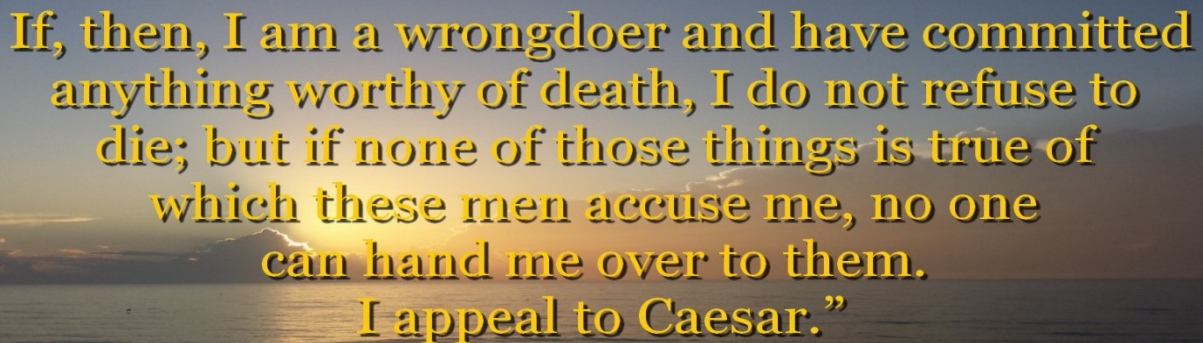
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of Jesus Christ to provide the strength of faith during every moment of our lives, especially when the going gets tough. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the power of Jesus Christ to help you face your adversaries with a clear mind and cheerfulness?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 884

Wrongdoer Today



If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is true of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them.
I appeal to Caesar.”

Acts 25:11

How did Paul solve the problem of Festus? Paul appealed to Caesar.

Paul explained to Festus his position about going to Jerusalem to be tried before the religious Council. First, Paul said that if he was a wrongdoer and did something worthy of death, then he was willing to die. Second, if none of the things the Jews accused him of were actually true, then no one can hand him over to them.

Paul then appealed to Caesar. Interestingly, Festus did not find Paul guilty of anything. He only wanted to transfer Paul to the Jewish court and was prepared to make that legal ruling. Apparently, Paul could appeal Festus' judgment of sending the case back down to the Jewish Council.

Just as Jesus had told Paul, he would be His witness in Rome. Paul just arranged a date before the tribunal of Caesar. Festus would start the legal procedure for sending Paul to Caesar in Rome. Paul had a long trip in front of him and he would be under guard the entire time, just as he was under house arrest at Caesarea.

Appeal

1. **Wrongdoer**. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar? Paul appealed to Caesar because he did not want to go to Jerusalem again to be tried by the Jews.

2. **Committed**. Paul told Festus that he was willing to die if he committed any offense against Rome worthy of death.

3. **Worthy**. Paul made it plain that he had not committed any crime worthy of death.

4. **Death**. Only the Romans could impose the death penalty for a crime against the state.

5. **None**. Paul proved and Festus knew that none of the charges were true.

6. **True**. Living holy in the family of God means that we praise God that Paul was innocent of the charges and none of the accusations against him were true.

7. **Caesar**. We rejoice today because Paul appealed to Caesar as part of God's plan for him to continue his ministry to powerful people in the Roman judicial system.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul appealing to Caesar.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Festus tried to do the Jews of favor at the expense of Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising Jesus for the great plans that He had for Paul's life in testifying not only before regional governors, but also on appeal to Caesar.**

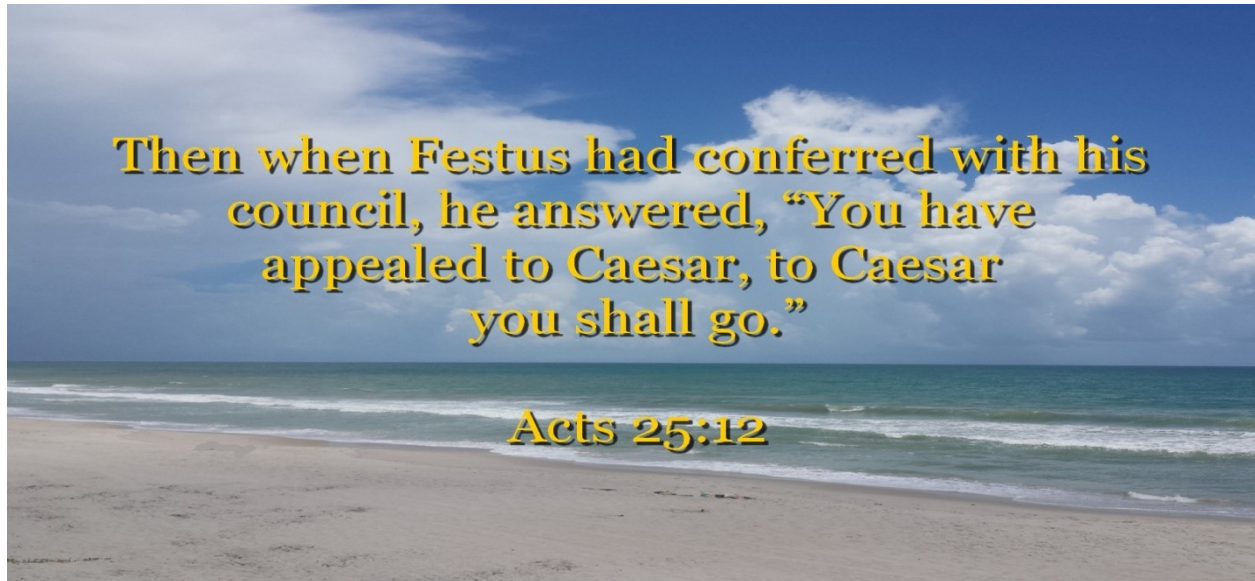
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's testimony to many powerful Roman authorities. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus because He leads us every day, even when we face court and appeals in court?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 885

Conferred Today



What did Festus decide about Paul? Festus decided that Paul should be sent to Caesar.

Festus found himself between the Jews on one side demanding to try Paul in their court in Jerusalem. On the other side, he had Paul seeking Roman justice as a Roman citizen. Clearly, Paul had the upper hand legally because he was a Roman citizen entitled to be tried under Roman law applied by a Roman tribunal.

By handing Paul off to Caesar, Festus had found a way to pacify the Jews when he told them that Paul had appealed to Caesar and to Caesar he must go. Therefore, Festus could not turn Paul over to the Jewish Council and that problem basically solved itself. Festus could tell them that he did his part in trying to turn Paul over to them, but Paul had invoked his right to appeal to Caesar. Therefore, Festus was legally bound to grant the appeal to Caesar and was unable legally to send Paul back to Jerusalem to be tried by the Jewish Council.

At this point Paul was looking forward to traveling to Rome. Paul had spent considerable time traveling the waters off of Asia and Europe. Now he would travel those same waters as a prisoner of Rome, but still an ambassador for Christ.

Go

1. **Festus**. What did Festus do when Paul appealed to Caesar? He conferred with his Council.

2. **Conferred**. Festus conferred with his Council to determine if Paul's request was lawful.

3. **Council**. The Council apparently agreed that it was a lawful request for Paul to appeal to Caesar.

4. **Answered**. Therefore, Festus answered Paul and told him his appeal would be granted.

5. **Caesar**. As a Roman citizen, Paul exercised his right to appeal to Caesar.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus granted Paul's request to appeal to Caesar so that Paul could continue to proclaim Jesus on his way to Rome and during his time in Rome.

7. **Go**. We rejoice today because Festus told Paul that to Caesar he would go.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul appealing to Caesar.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul did not want to return to Jerusalem and be subject to the attacks the Jews would bring against him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul had the wisdom from God to appeal to Caesar and avoid returning to Jerusalem.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering to use our legal rights that will help us proclaim Jesus to others and avoid further trouble. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your legal rights to glorify God and avoid unnecessary legal entanglements?

HALLELUJAH!

11

Agrippa

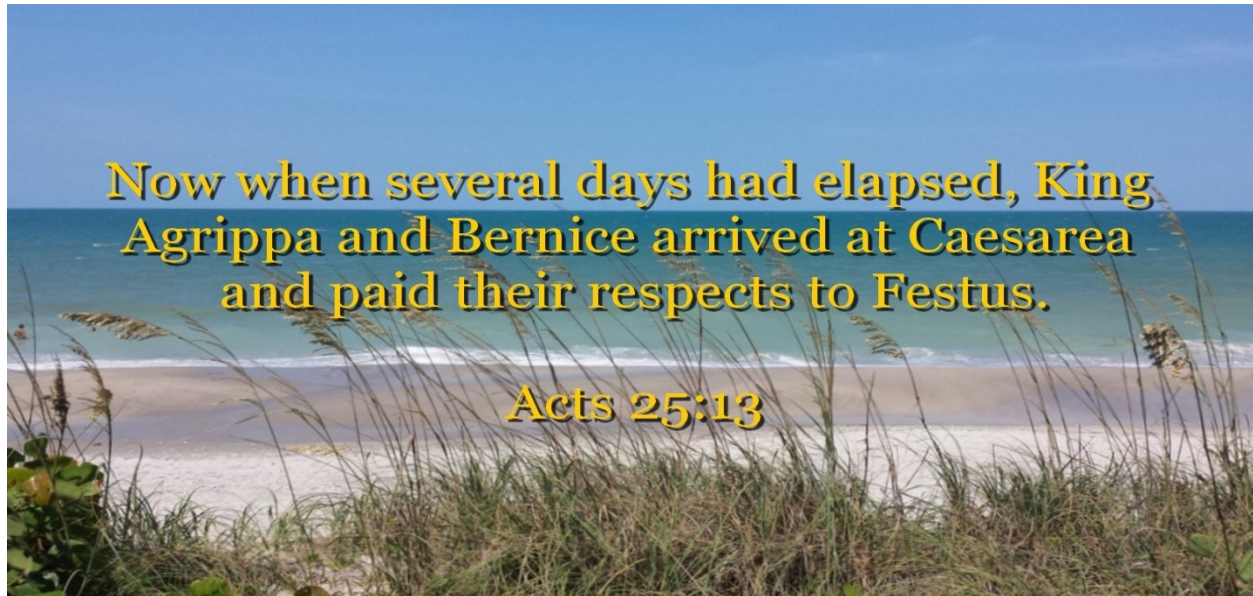
Today

King Agrippa and Bernice, his wife, came to Caesarea with great pomp. The auditorium was filled with prominent men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. Festus requested help from Agrippa so that Festus would have something to write to Caesar about the charges being brought against Paul on appeal. Festus was hoping that further investigation by King Agrippa would provide something to set before Caesar regarding the charges against Paul and his defense.

HALLELUJAH!

Day 886

Agrippa Today



Who came to Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus? King Agrippa and Bernice.

Custom dictated that the puppet kings of Rome pay their respects to the new Roman governor of the province. King Agrippa and his wife Bernice came to Caesarea to welcome Festus as the new governor. Festus also wanted to establish good relationships with King Agrippa because he was a ruler of the Jews.

Several days had elapsed since Paul appealed to Caesar. Just like Felix enjoyed talking to Paul and sought a bribe, so also other people wanted to hear from Paul. People knew that Paul was once a chief persecutor of the Way, but something had dramatically changed in his life. Paul had been away in Asia and Europe for many years in his return to Jerusalem was a singular event. Of course, King Agrippa apparently had not come to see Paul during his two years of confinement previously in Caesarea under Felix. Therefore, we know that King Agrippa was primarily motivated by politics and forming a good relationship with Festus.

Respects

1. **Days**. Why did King Agrippa come to see Festus? King Agrippa came to see Festus to pay his respects and gain some concession.
2. **Elapsed**. Only a few days had elapsed since Festus heard the Jews accuse Paul.
3. **King**. Then King Agrippa arrived to pay his respects to the new governor, Festus.
4. **Bernice**. King Agrippa brought Bernice, his wife, with him.
5. **Arrived**. They arrived in Caesarea and went and saw Festus.
6. **Respects**. Living holy in the family of God means that King Agrippa made a point of coming to Caesarea to welcome Festus to his new job.
7. **Festus**. We rejoice today because the arrival of King Agrippa and Bernice in Caesarea would present Paul another opportunity to share the gospel with Festus, King Agrippa and Bernice, among others.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the opportunities He presents to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with new people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by recognizing the arrival of King Agrippa and Bernice as people in authority who needed to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing the opportunities that God presents to us when new people show up in our lives for whatever reason.**

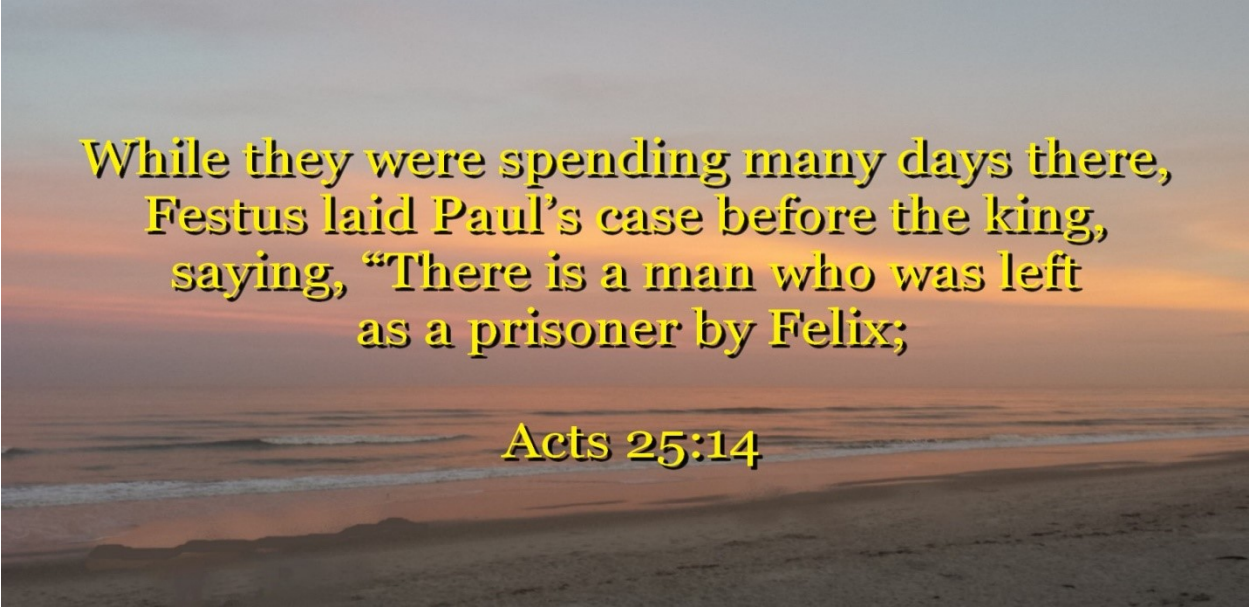
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that we meet new people who need to hear about Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the plan of salvation with people that God places into your life, if only for a short time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 887

Case Today



While they were spending many days there,
Festus laid Paul's case before the king,
saying, "There is a man who was left
as a prisoner by Felix;

Acts 25:14

What did Festus tell King Agrippa? He told King Agrippa about Paul's case.

King Agrippa with his wife spent many days in Caesarea. Festus saw an opportunity to gain insight about Paul from King Agrippa. Therefore, he laid out Paul's case before the king. Festus indicated that Paul had been left prisoner by Felix.

Festus had already heard the Jews and Paul. He also granted Paul's appeal to Caesar. Yet, Festus knew he did not have a good charging document to send to Caesar describing the charges against Paul and the basis of his judgment not to refer the matter to the Jewish court in Jerusalem. Everyone knew that Paul was innocent of all charges, both religious and secular.

Festus also knew he was dealing with a Roman citizen in Paul. Therefore, Festus had to be careful about handling and disposing of this case. Perhaps King Agrippa could provide some new thought about the case and also might provide a more acceptable solution. So far, everyone who handled the case had not been able to resolve it satisfactorily.

Prisoner

1. **Spending**. What did Festus share with King Agrippa? He shared the case of Paul with him.
2. **Many**. King Agrippa spent many days in Caesarea.
3. **Festus**. During that time Festus wanted to get King Agrippa's opinion about Paul's case.
4. **Laid**. One day Festus laid the whole case before King Agrippa.
5. **Paul's**. Paul's case had many unique features because he was a Roman citizen hated by the entire Jewish leadership.
6. **Case**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Festus wanted to get a second opinion of Paul's case from a seasoned government official.
7. **Felix**. We rejoice today because when Felix had left Paul a prisoner in Caesarea, he was actually facilitating God's plan for Paul to meet many more people there and share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God as we see His plans unfold before our eyes.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how Felix left Paul in prison, but God used that time for many people in authority to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from the lips of Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking past our physical circumstances and seeing the spiritual reality behind them.**

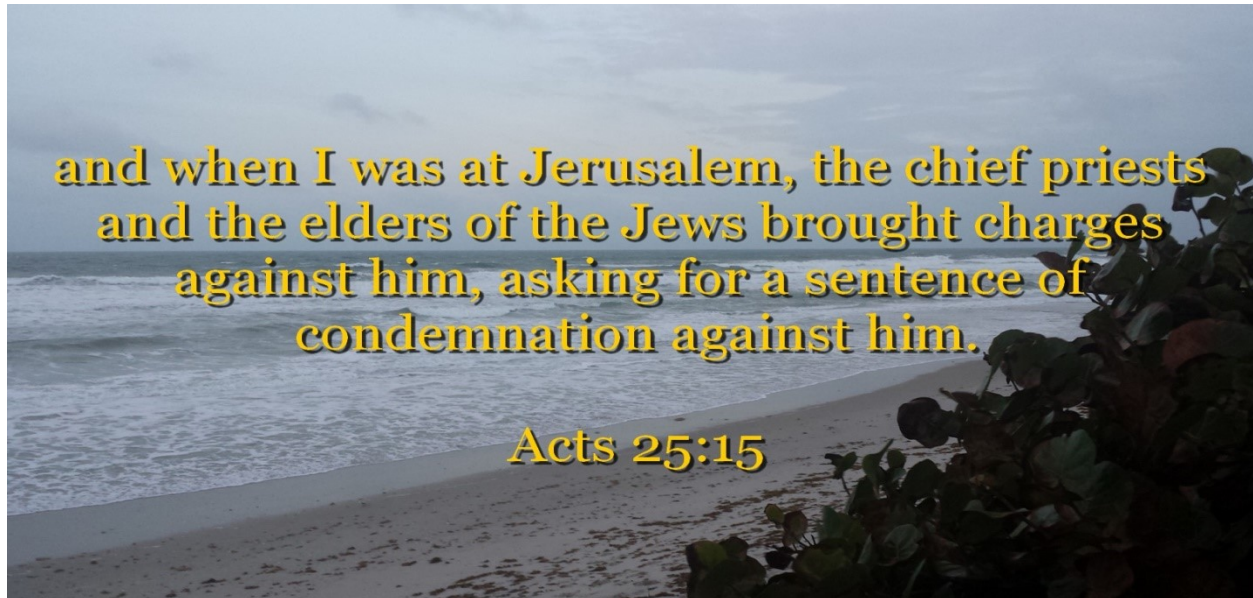
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the deep plans of wisdom He brings into our lives so that we will walk in the good works He prepared beforehand for us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His wisdom in arranging for many people to meet us who need to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 888

Charges Today



What did Festus share about his trip to Jerusalem with King Agrippa? Festus told him that the chief priests and elders of the Jews sought a sentence of condemnation against Paul.

Festus visited Jerusalem a few days after he reached Caesarea as the new governor. When he arrived in Jerusalem, the Jews approached him and brought charges against Paul seeking a sentence of condemnation. In other words they wanted to kill Paul. Festus knew that Felix had left Paul a prisoner for two years. If Festus knew more than that about the history of Paul, we cannot be sure.

Festus tried to split the baby with the Jews. He invited them to come to Caesarea and bring charges against Paul there. He did not want to bring Paul back to Jerusalem. He also wanted to appease the Jews and give them some concession.

Festus determined during court at Caesarea that Paul had really done nothing wrong. He was sure, however, that the Jews wanted to kill Paul. Therefore, Festus was willing to send Paul back to Jerusalem to be tried and

condemned by the religious Council. In the end, politics triumphed over justice in the mind of Festus.

Condemnation

1. **When**. How did Festus explain his first exposure to the Paul problem? The Jews in Jerusalem sought condemnation of Paul.

2. **I**. Festus said to King Agrippa, that he was in Jerusalem when the Jewish leadership approached him.

3. **Jerusalem**. In Jerusalem the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against Paul.

4. **Chief**. The chief priests themselves brought charges against Paul.

5. **Jews**. They were joined by the elders of the Jews.

6. **Charges**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews in Jerusalem still wanted Paul condemned to death, even after two years of imprisonment in Caesarea.

7. **Prisoner**. We rejoice today because Felix left Paul in prison for two years, but Paul put that time to good use by meeting with disciples and sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with many people in authority.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that our circumstances may not be entirely pleasant, but that does not mean we are not in the center of God's plan for our life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul held in custody at Caesarea for two years waiting for his trial to continue.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by asking God for patience when His plans require us to stay in one place for years.**

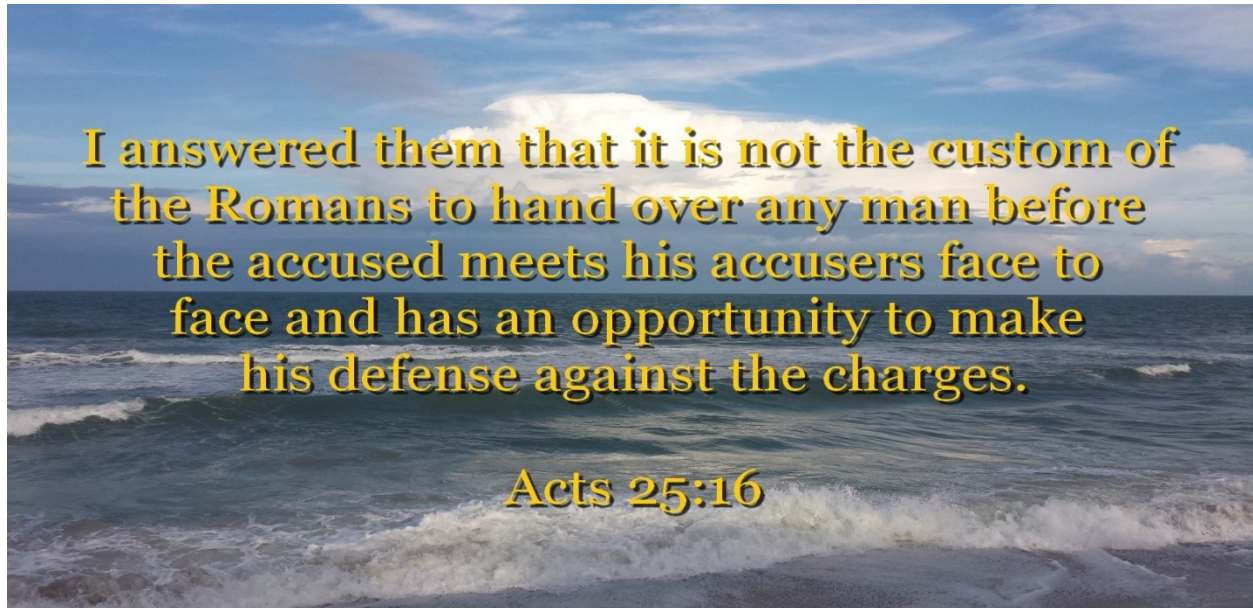
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by seeking patience from God to endure hardships without giving up. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God for stamina to run the race He set before you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 889

Accused Today



What did Festus explain to the Jews? Festus explained the custom of Roman court procedure.

Festus acted as the presiding judge for the Roman court system in the province of Judea. Roman citizens could not be handed over to any man without first satisfying Roman procedure. The accused had several important rights at trial.

First the accused had the right to meet his accusers face-to-face. This opportunity for direct confrontation in cross examination was essential to any quest for the truth in court. Paul was entitled to face his accusers in a Roman court because he was a Roman citizen.

Second, Paul was entitled to an opportunity to present a defense to the charges brought against him. Paul had the legal right to present any kind of defense he wished to prove his case, including presenting his own witnesses and cross-examining the prosecution's witnesses.

Third, Roman courts had exclusive jurisdiction over Roman citizens. Before Paul could be handed over to the Jews, he must first have his day in the Roman court.

Defense

1. **I.** What answer did Festus give the religious leaders? He told them about the custom of Romans.

2. **Answered.** Festus had a simple answer for the Jews wanting to condemn Paul.

3. **Not.** He explained that it was not the custom of Romans to condemn a Roman citizen without following legal procedure.

4. **Custom.** The custom of the Romans dictated certain rights for the accused.

5. **Hand.** Those rights prohibited Festus from handing over Paul to the Jews for condemnation without a Roman trial.

6. **Face.** Living holy in the family of God means that we praise God that Roman law allowed Paul to meet his accusers face-to-face and proclaim Jesus to everyone in the courtroom.

7. **Defense.** We rejoice today because Paul built his defense upon the power of God to prove he was telling the truth and the Jews were lying.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for legal rights that provide a forum for presenting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by learning about our legal rights if we are drawn into the court.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus Christ will always be our Attorney.**

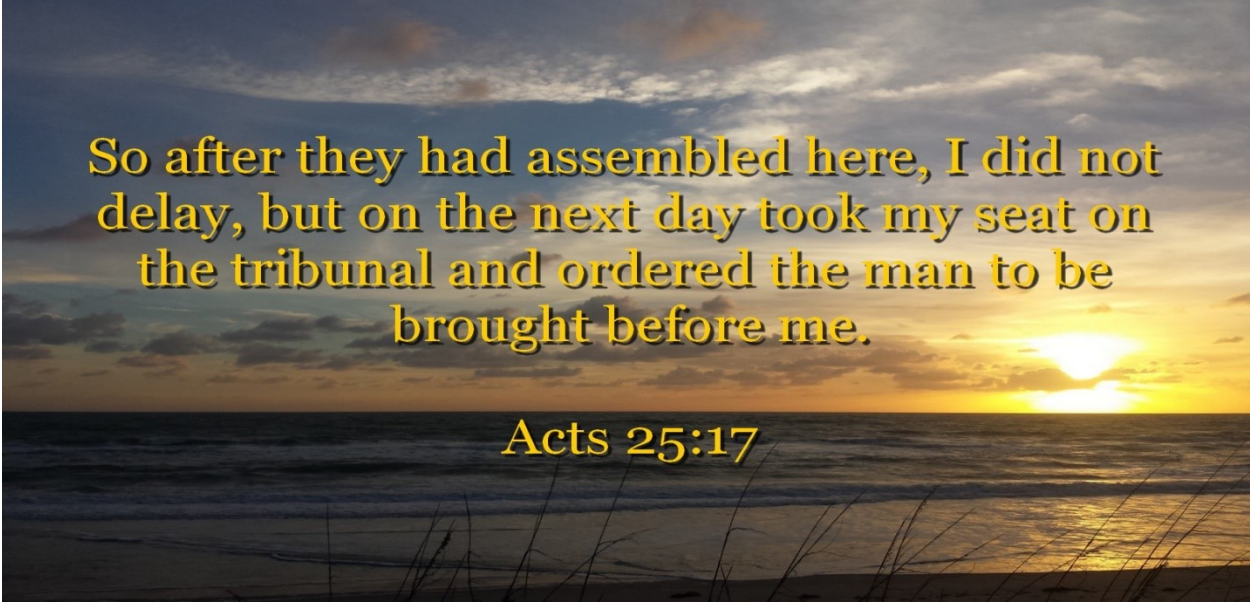
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding our legal rights and how God may use the court system to glorify Himself. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that His judgments are eternal and righteous?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 890

Assembled Today

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow that reflects on the water. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. In the foreground, there are some dark, silhouetted reeds or grasses. Overlaid on the image is the text "So after they had assembled here, I did not delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought before me." in a yellow, serif font. Below the text is the reference "Acts 25:17" in the same font.

So after they had assembled here, I did not delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought before me.

Acts 25:17

What did Festus do without delay? On the day after the Jews assembled in Caesarea to accuse Paul, Festus took a seat on the tribunal and held court.

Festus invited the Jews to join him when he returned to Caesarea. Once there, the Jews could accuse Paul in a Roman court with a Roman judge sitting on the tribunal. Felix said that without delay he convened court on the day after the Jews arrived in Caesarea.

Festus ordered that Paul be brought before the tribunal. The Jews were there and began to accuse Paul. Obviously, those proceedings did not produce a result that satisfied Paul, Festus, or the Jews. Having heard the basic arguments of both sides, Festus did not make any findings of fact.

Festus asked Paul if he was willing to go back to Jerusalem and submit to the jurisdiction of the religious court. Paul asserted his legal right to be tried by Rome and said he was standing in the correct court at Caesarea. Paul then invoked his right of appeal to Caesar, because he did not want to return to the Jews who repeatedly tried to murder him in Jerusalem.

Tribunal

1. **Assembled**. How did Festus describe Paul's pre-trial procedure? Festus said that he assembled everyone without delay in Caesarea.
2. **Delay**. He acted quickly in bringing the Jews down from Caesarea to avoid delay.
3. **Seat**. He took his seat where he would pass judgment as a Roman governor.
4. **Tribunal**. He sat on a bema also known as a tribunal.
5. **Ordered**. Festus ordered Paul to be brought in to the court.
6. **Man**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul was summoned back to court under Festus after being under house arrest for two years following his first trial in Caesarea.
7. **Brought**. We rejoice today because while Paul was brought back to court under Festus, he knew that his testimony for Christ in the Roman court system was not yet coming to an end.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the saints of old who endured lengthy confinement before court proceedings because they proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus that He helps us to endure the false accusations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning patience from Paul as he was summoned back to court after two years of confinement in Caesarea.**

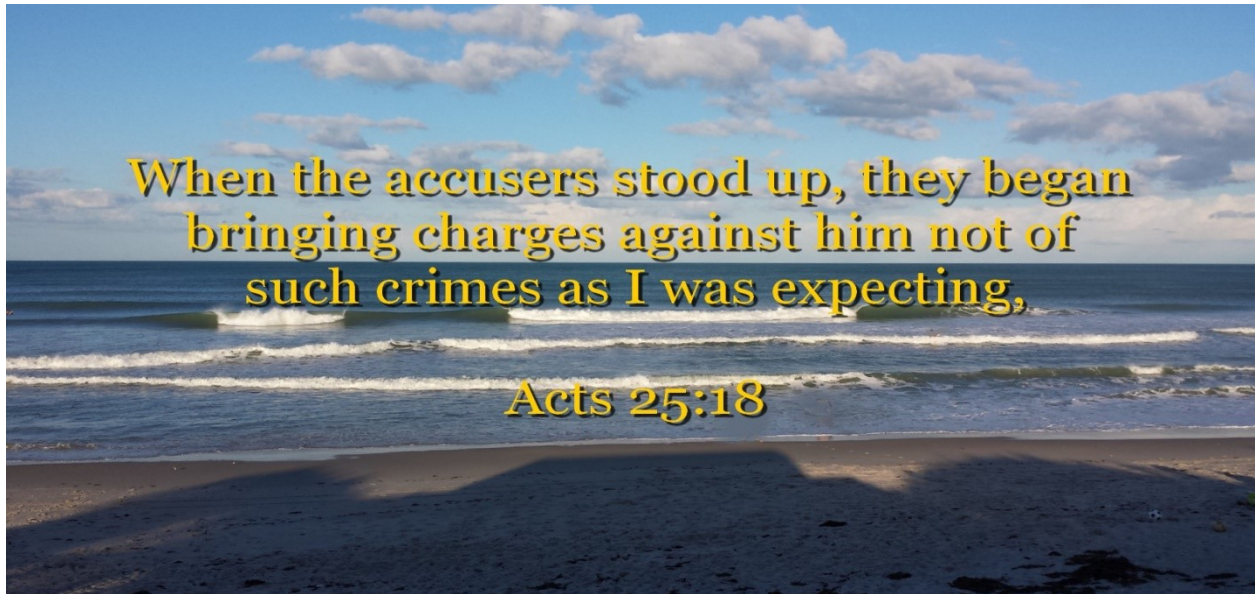
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting Jesus to lead us through court proceedings or other trials based upon false accusations. Will you live holy in the family of God today by keeping your eyes upon Jesus as we walk through difficult times?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 891

Accusers Today



How did the Jews surprise Festus? They brought charges against Paul of crimes that Festus did not expect.

The Jews accused Paul of religious crimes. They tried to include crimes against Caesar, but Festus understood they brought only religious charges against Paul. When Festus related the proceedings to King Agrippa, Festus indicated there were some points of disagreement about their own religion. They also had a dispute about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive.

Festus had clearly understood the nature of the proceedings. Paul's defense was crystal clear. He proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a stumbling block to the Jews and a matter of no consequence to Festus. Nothing in the accusations against Paul amounted to any basis for charging Paul with a crime under Roman law and Festus knew it.

Festus had Paul in custody awaiting his appeal to Caesar. Just like Claudius Lysias did not know what to write to Felix about Paul, Festus did

not know how to investigate the charges against Paul. He wanted to do the Jews a favor and turn Paul over to them, but Paul would have none of it.

Crimes

1. **Accusers**. How did Festus respond to the Jews charging Paul with crimes? Festus was surprised because they brought charges he did not expect.

2. **Stood**. As the Jews stood up and charged Paul, they brought charges against Paul sounding like religious disputes and not crimes against Rome.

3. **Charges**. Festus heard the charges and understood that Jesus was at the center of the dispute.

4. **Against**. The Jews brought charges against Paul that belonged in a religious court.

5. **Him**. Festus understood the Jews had no concrete charges against Paul concerning the violation of Roman law.

6. **Crimes**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews charged Paul with crimes religious in nature and Festus understood the perfidy of the Jews.

7. **Expect**. We rejoice today because Festus did not expect to hear about Jesus and His resurrection.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus as an essential part of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He provides opportunities to speak about the resurrection of Jesus Christ to people in authority.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following the example of Paul and Jesus who testified faithfully to people sitting in judgment upon them.**

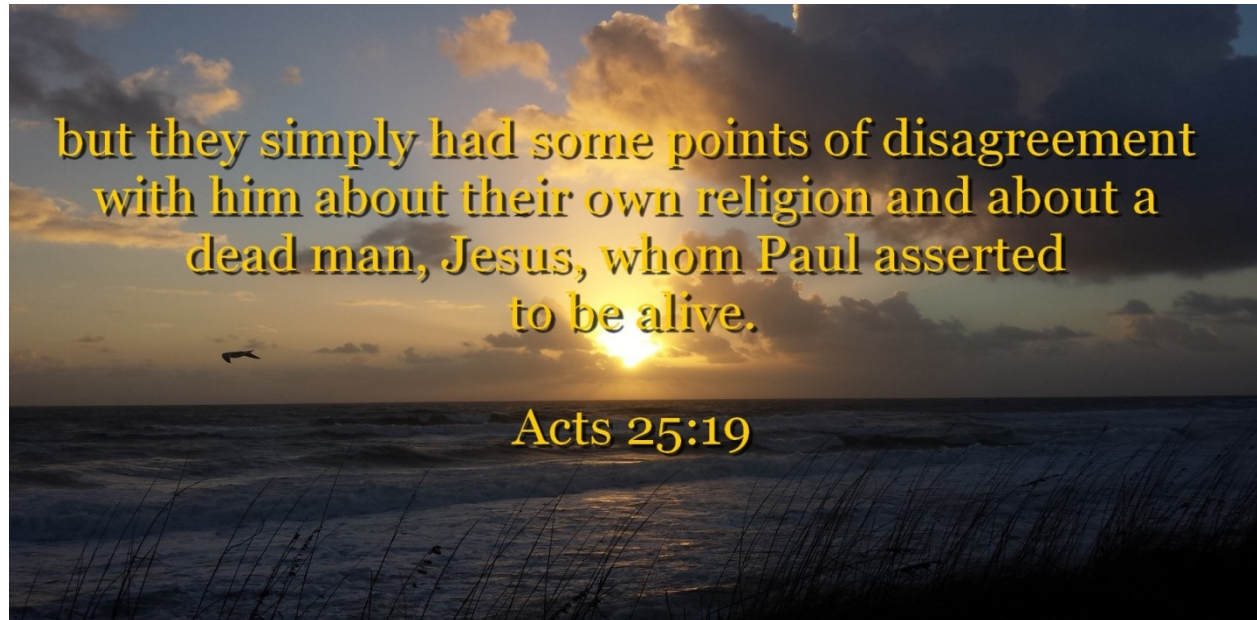
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that we serve a resurrected Savior Jesus of Nazareth. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving God the glory for Paul's strong voice for Christ in the courts of Rome and other voices across the world today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 892

Jesus Today



What were the Jews fighting over? Festus said they were fighting over their own religion.

Paul had convinced Festus that the entire controversy was religious in nature. Paul had also made it plain that Jesus had died and now lived again. Paul clearly proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ to Festus and everyone listening to the proceedings.

Festus understood Roman law and the rights of the accused. They had the right to confront their accusers face to face. They also had the right to have a trial before a Roman tribunal before any punishment could be inflicted upon them. Furthermore, the jurisdiction of the Roman court was exclusive, so that Festus was not able to transfer Paul's case to Jerusalem without Paul's consent.

Paul knew what would happen if the Jews were able to persuade Festus to send him back to Jerusalem. They had tried to ambush him before and Paul suspected they would ambush him again. They had little intention of

imposing a lawful sentence upon Paul in court. They sought to impose the death sentence upon Paul that they had already decided upon without court. Such was the sorry state of Jewish jurisprudence in Jerusalem.

Alive

1. **Points**. According to Festus, what was the dispute with Paul all about? The Jews disagreed with Paul about points of religion.

2. **Disagreement**. The disagreement was so violent that the Jews tried to kill Paul more than once.

3. **Religion**. Festus understood that the Jews brought charges having to deal with their religion, not Roman law.

4. **Dead**. Festus understood the center of the dispute was about Jesus of Nazareth and that he was dead.

5. **Jesus**. Paul had proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the Savior of the world.

6. **Paul**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul faithfully testified before Festus and other authorities that Jesus Christ was alive and risen from the dead.

7. **Alive**. We rejoice today because Paul clearly presented his defense to Festus, so that Festus understood that the entire dispute was about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead so that he was alive today, and not about Roman crimes.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus that He is the Risen Savior Who leads us at all times.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following Jesus and obeying His command to tell others of His salvation offered as a free gift.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that without the resurrection of Jesus, we have no hope and are the most miserable of all men.**

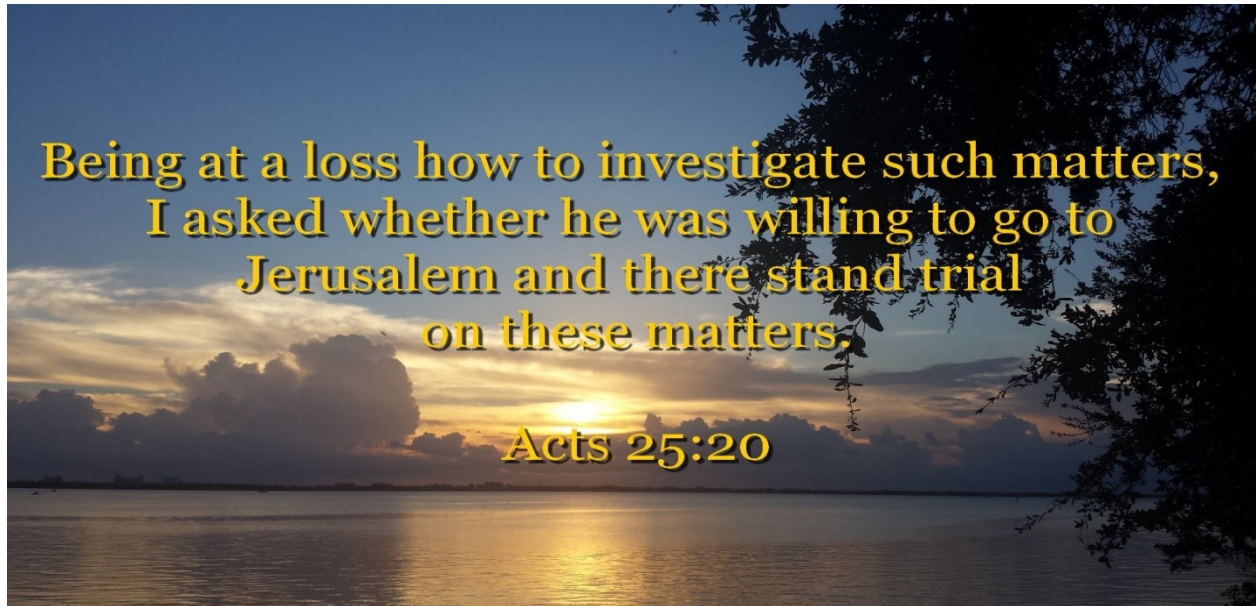
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and letting others know about His great love. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being very clear about Jesus and His resurrection so that everyone will know we serve a risen Savior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 893

Jerusalem Today



What did Festus ask Paul to do? Festus asked Paul to go to Jerusalem and stand trial.

Having heard the accusations from the Jews against Paul, Festus knew he could not investigate such religious matters. At least Festus had an interest in investigating the facts to ascertain the truth. In contrast, the Jews had no interest in the facts because they hated Paul for proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection.

Paul wrote about a veil lying over the face of the Jews when it came to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They could not see the Lord Jesus Christ because they refused to lift the veil by faith. Their foolish hearts were hardened and their spiritual blindness was complete. Jesus had come to His own people and they rejected Him.

The Jews had laid their case before Festus, but he was at a complete loss about how to even investigate such charges. The Jews surprised him with the nature of their charges because Festus was expecting them to complain about crimes against Rome and Caesar.

Trial

1. **Loss**. Why did Festus ask Paul to go to Jerusalem for trial? Festus did not know how to investigate the charges against Paul.
2. **Investigate**. Festus felt an obligation to investigate the charges brought by the Jews concerning religious matters.
3. **Matters**. Those matters were beyond the knowledge of Festus, a new Roman governor.
4. **Asked**. Therefore, Festus asked Paul to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there.
5. **Willing**. Notice that Festus framed the question as, are you willing?
6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus tried to send Paul to Jerusalem but Paul stood fast against such a suggestion.
7. **Trial**. We rejoice today because Paul had the wisdom to know that nothing good would come of going to trial at Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by making good decisions under pressure with the help of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by considering carefully the implications of our choices.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by standing firmly upon our legal rights when circumstances warrant.**

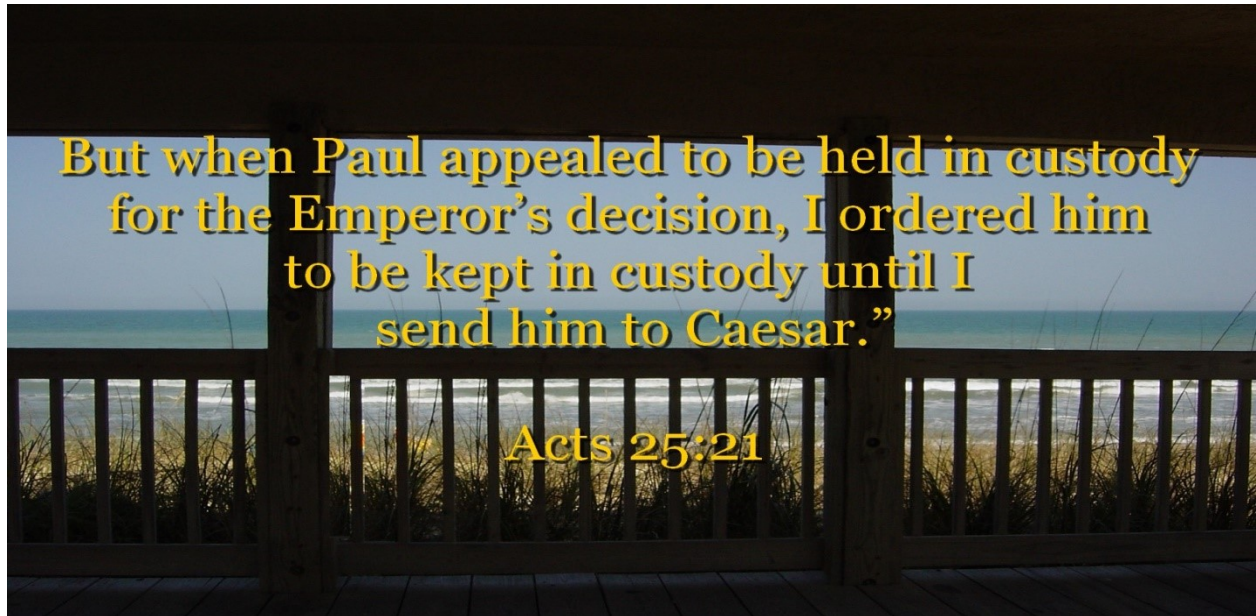
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by standing upon our legal rights to avoid further trouble. Will you live holy in the family of God today by carefully considering your answers before you start talking?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 894

Appealed Today



Why did Festus hold Paul in custody? Festus held Paul in custody until he could send Paul to Caesar.

Festus tried to send Paul to the Jews to resolve the religious charges against him. Paul knew that any removal of his case to Jerusalem would amount to execution, probably before he arrived in Jerusalem.

Paul appealed to Caesar for the final decision on his case. Felix had kept him in custody for two years without rendering a final decision. Festus had determined he could not reach a final decision about Paul and he could not even investigate the charges against Paul. When Festus seemed inclined to send Paul back to Jerusalem to face charges in the Jewish court there, Paul stated that he was in the proper forum before the Roman tribunal.

Paul invoked his appellate rights to have his case decided by Caesar. Of course, Festus had nothing to tell Caesar about the case and the charges against Paul, except that they were religious in nature. Festus understood the Jews had religious disagreements with Paul and Paul declared that Jesus had

died, but was resurrected from the dead. So Festus was obligated to keep Paul in custody until he sent Paul to Caesar.

Caesar

1. **Appealed**. What did Festus do when Paul appealed to be held in custody? Festus agreed.

2. **Held**. Paul sought to be held in custody pending his appeal to Caesar.

3. **Custody**. In this case, the custody at Caesarea would keep him out of court in Jerusalem.

4. **Emperor's**. Paul had appealed for the Emperor's decision concerning his case.

5. **Decision**. Paul would meet the Emperor in Rome and have his case heard and the decision of the Roman Emperor would be final.

6. **Kept**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus kept Paul in custody at Caesarea, thus avoiding trial at Jerusalem.

7. **Send**. We rejoice today because Festus would send Paul to Rome for the decision of the Emperor, but he did not have to appear again before the religious Council in Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus that He leads us into green pastures.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for His deliverance from evil religious leaders seeking to harm Christians.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another and praying for one another as Christians face difficult times in court.**

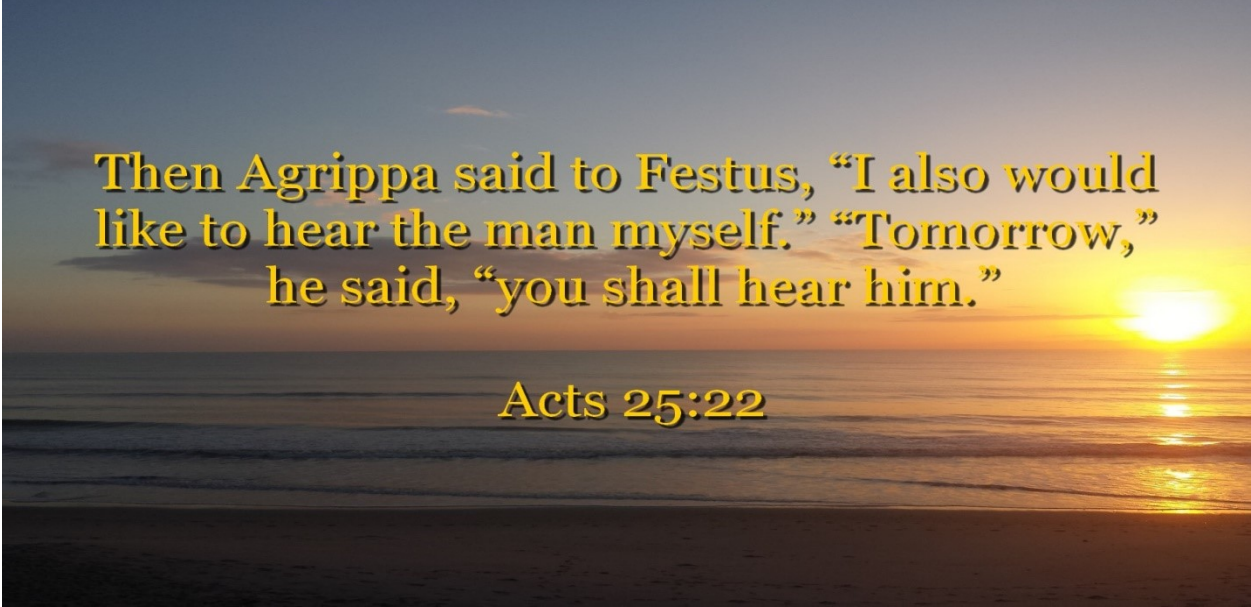
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Festus trying to send Paul back to the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem and God helping Paul avoid such a disaster. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to provide the perfect solution for our problems?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 895

Agrippa Today



Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I also would like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” he said, “you shall hear him.”

Acts 25:22

What did Agrippa say to Festus? Agrippa said he would like to hear from Paul.

Festus had heard the Jews accuse Paul of points of disagreement about religious matters. Having heard the Jews presentation in Paul’s case, Festus concluded that he could not even investigate such religious matters. Therefore, he asked Paul if he would submit to the jurisdiction of the Jewish Council in Jerusalem. Festus wanted to do the Jews a favor.

When Agrippa came to Caesarea and stayed for many days, Festus saw the opportunity to lay the case of Paul before the Jewish king. Festus hoped that he might gain insight into the dispute between Paul and the Jews. Festus understood already that Paul claimed that Jesus had lived and died and then had been resurrected. The Jews denied any such claims.

Paul had been proclaiming the resurrection in court in many different jurisdictions and venues. Paul proclaimed the risen Savior, Jesus of Nazareth. Jews in Europe and Asia hated Paul because he started with their synagogues each time he came to a new city and proclaimed Christ there.

King Agrippa had knowledge of Jewish custom and traditions. Festus had been in office for a very short time. He hoped Agrippa could help him resolve the dispute about Paul.

Hear

1. **Agrippa**. What did Agrippa say to Festus? Agrippa wanted to hear Paul for himself.

2. **Festus**. Festus had taken the time to lay out the case of Paul before Agrippa.

3. **Hear**. Listening to Festus talk about Paul, the curiosity of Agrippa had been piqued.

4. **Man**. Agrippa said specifically that he wanted to hear the man, referring to Paul, because he wanted to learn more about Paul.

5. **Myself**. Agrippa as a ruler of the Jews had an interest in hearing about Paul for himself.

6. **Tomorrow**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus granted Agrippa's request so that he could hear from Paul tomorrow.

7. **Hear**. We rejoice today because Agrippa had an opportunity to hear Paul and make up his own mind about Paul and the charges against him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that people can become very curious about Jesus Christ and His servants.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering men like Agrippa often like to hear about Jesus for themselves.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by always being ready to talk about Jesus because many other people may want to hear more about Him.**

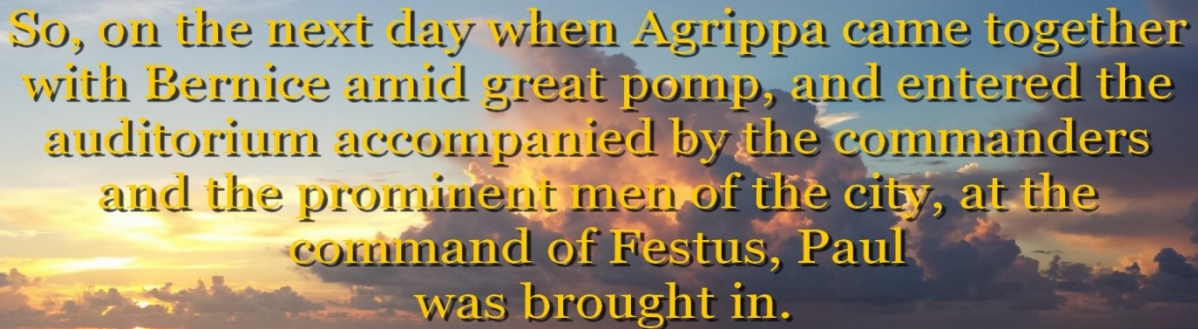
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the custody of Paul at Caesarea allowed him to talk to governors and a king about Jesus and His resurrection. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never underestimating how a little hardship can lead to much fruitful ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 896

Accompanied Today



So, on the next day when Agrippa came together with Bernice amid great pomp, and entered the auditorium accompanied by the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

Acts 25:23

What audience gathered to hear Paul? God gathered a king, a governor, commanders and all the prominent people of Caesarea to hear Paul.

King Agrippa and his wife came to Caesarea to pay their respects to the new governor, Festus. After hearing Festus lay out the case to him, Agrippa wanted to hear from Paul himself. Festus was eager to accommodate the request of Agrippa.

The next day Agrippa and his wife Bernice entered the auditorium. They were accompanied with great pomp, befitting a king. In addition, all the prominent men of Caesarea had come to hear Paul. The Roman contingent consisted of Festus and the commanders of the army. Jesus had told Paul earlier that he would be His witness before many people in authority.

In the plan of God, Paul now had an opportunity to address everybody who was anybody at Caesarea. Paul was going to tell them about Jesus of Nazareth, His death and resurrection. Paul would also prove from the Scriptures that Jesus really was God in the flesh and the Savior of the world and Messiah of Israel. God had assembled a very influential crowd to hear

Paul. Jesus, as always, had kept His word to Paul and Paul followed His plans.

Prominent

1. **Next**. What happened the day after Festus said that Agrippa would hear from Paul? Festus immediately arranged a meeting in the auditorium at Caesarea.

2. **Agrippa**. Agrippa had come to Caesarea to pay his respects to the new governor, Festus.

3. **Bernice**. Agrippa was accompanied by his wife Bernice.

4. **Pomp**. Great pomp attended their entrance into the auditorium.

5. **Prominent**. Festus had also arranged for the prominent men of Caesarea to attend the hearing for Paul.

6. **Festus**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Festus needed to learn more about the charges against Paul and so he turned to King Agrippa for help.

7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because God had assembled all the influential people in Caesarea to hear Paul, held under Roman custody, proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for drawing so many people of influence to hear Paul proclaim Jesus to them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by recognizing the wisdom of God in drawing all the influential people to one auditorium to hear about Jesus and His resurrection.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never giving up or quitting because we are having a difficult time.**

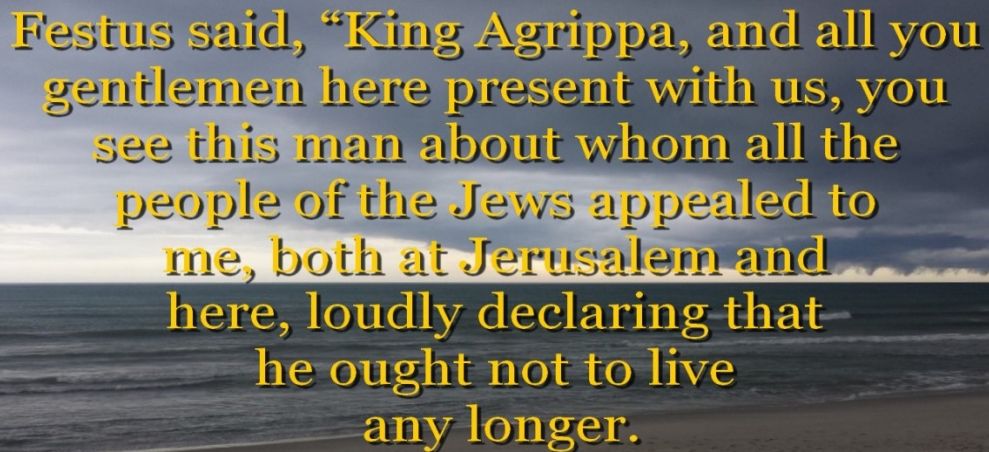
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering all the people God drew to Paul while he was in custody so that they could hear about the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's plans for your life without grumbling because of temporary hardships?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 897

Appealed Today



Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all you gentlemen here present with us, you see this man about whom all the people of the Jews appealed to me, both at Jerusalem and here, loudly declaring that he ought not to live any longer.

Acts 25:24

How did Festus introduce Paul? Festus said that all the Jews wanted to kill Paul.

Festus had brought Paul into the auditorium and explained why he was there. He addressed his remarks to King Agrippa and all the people with him. They had come to hear about Paul. Festus indicated that all the Jews in Jerusalem and at Caesarea had loudly declared to Festus upon his arrival in Caesarea that Paul ought not to live any longer.

Having heard the accusations of the Jews and the reply of Paul, Festus was surprised at the accusations against Paul. Festus understood that the charges against Paul were religious in nature, concerning a dispute about a dead man named Jesus, whom Paul said had been raised from the dead. Festus was at a loss about how to even begin to investigate such claims.

When King Agrippa arrived at Caesarea to pay his respects to Festus, Festus laid out the case about Paul to King Agrippa for his views. While Festus knew he could not investigate the charges against Paul, he also knew

that King Agrippa might be able to provide valuable insight into all the legal and religious issues concerning Paul.

Declaring

1. **Festus**. How did Festus introduce Paul in the auditorium? Festus introduced Paul as the one person above all others that the Jews wanted to kill.

2. **Agrippa**. Festus let King Agrippa know that the Jews sought to kill Paul and tried to persuade Festus to do it under Roman law.

3. **Gentlemen**. As a politician, Festus greeted the influential people by calling them gentlemen.

4. **All**. Festus also related to the crowd in the auditorium that all the Jews, both in Jerusalem and Caesarea, wanted Paul dead as quickly as possible and on any pretense available.

5. **Appealed**. As soon as Festus arrived in Judea as the new governor of the province, the Jews in Jerusalem appealed to him again to put Paul to death.

6. **Declaring**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Jews declaring to Festus that Paul should die immediately.

7. **Longer**. We rejoice today because Festus did not grant the wishes of all the Jews by killing him immediately, but let Roman justice take its course in court.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that Festus truly understood what was going on with Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Festus told the crowd the truth about the Jews seeking to kill Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His plans for some of us to be His witnesses before many influential people.**

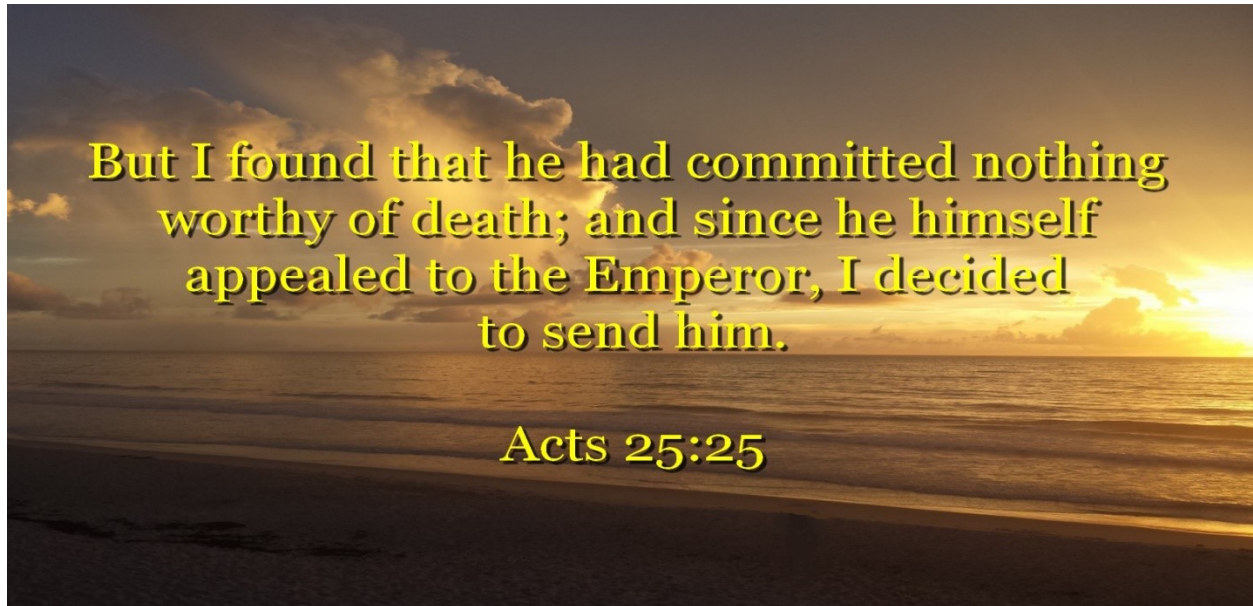
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the many ways Jesus uses our lives as testimonies of His power and love. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking to the people God assembles before you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 898

Nothing Today



But I found that he had committed nothing
worthy of death; and since he himself
appealed to the Emperor, I decided
to send him.

Acts 25:25

What did Festus tell the whole crowd? Festus said that he found that Paul had committed nothing worthy of death.

Festus had instantly made an enemy of all the Jews who wanted to kill Paul. At first, Festus wanted to accommodate the Jews and even try to send Paul back to Jerusalem to stand trial before the Jewish religious court. At that point, Paul objected and appealed to Caesar.

Before a very large and influential crowd, Festus determined openly and publicly that Paul had done nothing to warrant death. Paul may have done something to violate Jewish religious law, but that was beyond the jurisdiction of the Roman court. Festus implied that Paul had been wrongly accused by the Jews.

On the legal merits under Roman law, Paul had a right to avoid trial anywhere that was not in a Roman court with a Roman judge. Paul declared that he was in the right court, Roman, and would not agree to a Jewish trial in Jerusalem. Instead, he appealed to Caesar. Even so, Festus still wanted to

learn more about Paul so that he might have something to write about him in his appeal to Caesar.

Worthy

1. **Found**. What legal finding did Festus make about Paul? Festus found that Paul had done nothing worthy of death.

2. **Nothing**. Festus declared to everyone in the auditorium that he found Paul not guilty of any crime worthy of death.

3. **Worthy**. All of the Jews were intent upon killing Paul, one way or another, because they were convinced he had committed a crime against God worthy of death.

4. **Death**. Festus knew that Paul did not deserve death, yet held him in custody.

5. **Appealed**. Festus heard Paul appeal to Caesar when offered the choice to go to Jerusalem and stand trial before the Jewish court.

6. **Emperor**. Living holy in the family of God means that Festus told everybody that Paul had done nothing worthy of death, before Paul said anything to the crowd gathered in the auditorium.

7. **Send**. We rejoice today because Festus did not force Paul to go to Jerusalem, but granted his appeal to Caesar.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for preserving Paul's life so that he would have more fruitful testimony in Caesarea and as he traveled to Rome and beyond.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how Jesus intended to use Paul during his confinement.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning from Paul that God has plans for ministry that may include suffering hardships for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

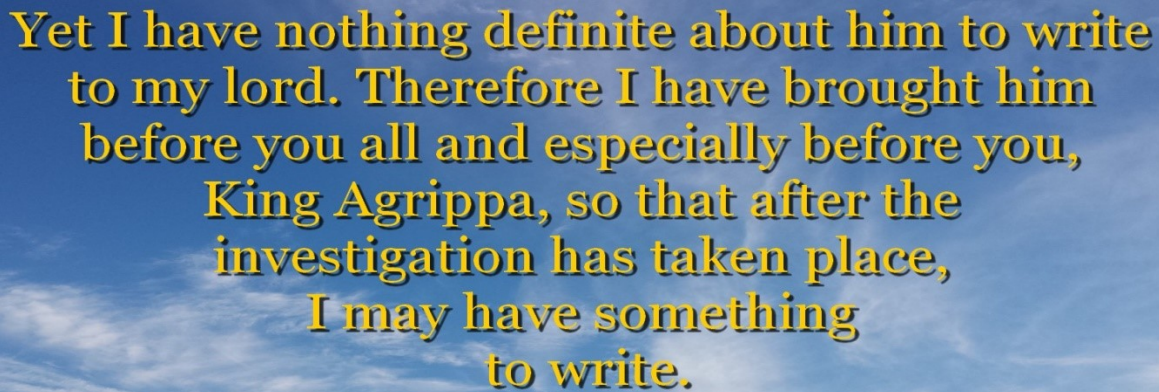
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for gathering all those people to hear Paul in the auditorium. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the people He draws to you so that you may talk with them about Jesus the Savior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 899

Nothing Definite Today



Yet I have nothing definite about him to write to my lord. Therefore I have brought him before you all and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the investigation has taken place, I may have something to write.

Acts 25:26

What was Festus looking for? Festus was looking for something to write to Caesar about Paul.

Claudius Lysias, the Roman commander at Jerusalem, also had nothing to write about Paul when he sent him to Felix the governor in Caesarea. The Roman commander could not understand why the Jews were accusing Paul, but he saw firsthand that they were trying to tear him apart.

A Roman should not be held in custody for indefinite lengths of time. They were entitled to their day in court. They had the right to confront their accusers face-to-face. Festus had already concluded that Paul had done nothing worthy of death. Even so he kept him in custody awaiting his appeal to Caesar.

Festus was hoping that King Agrippa could provide what he needed to write to Caesar. He needed some more facts about Paul and some way to describe the accusations against Paul. Would Festus tell Caesar on appeal that he had found nothing in Paul worthy of death?

Investigation

1. **Yet**. What did Festus hope the investigation would produce concerning Paul? He hoped the investigation would give him something to write to Caesar about Paul.

2. **Nothing**. So far, Festus had nothing to write about Paul for Caesar to read.

3. **Lord**. Festus referred to Caesar as my lord.

4. **Brought**. He explained to everyone in the auditorium that he brought Paul there for examination.

5. **Agrippa**. Festus particularly hoped that Agrippa could uncover important details about Paul and the charges against him.

6. **Investigation**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Festus and Felix had held Paul in custody for years, but still had no idea what to write about the charges against him.

7. **Write**. We rejoice today because while Festus sought something to write against Paul, God had arranged for Paul to proclaim the truth of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone gathered in that auditorium.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God when we remember that Paul had to wait more than two years for his opportunity to address so many important people in that auditorium who were waiting to hear from him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in God's grace, in that He extends salvation to both the small and the great people on earth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance and salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

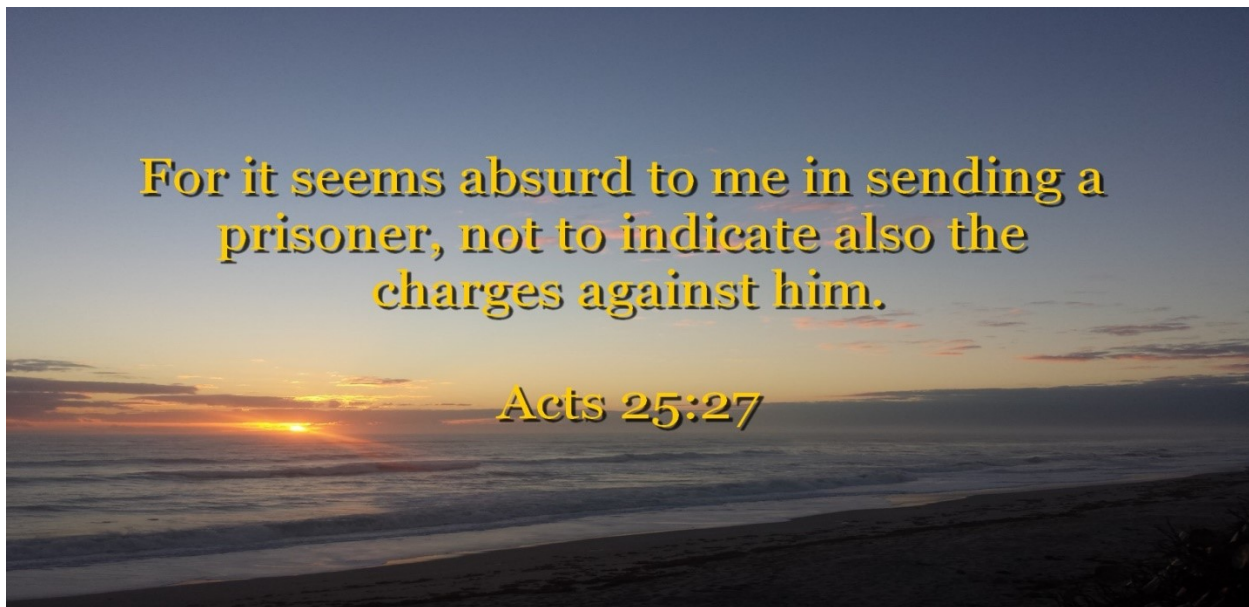
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by seeing crowds of people gathered together as opportunities to proclaim our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never assuming that God cannot use you to proclaim the excellencies of His Name just because people have lied about you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 900

Prisoner Today



For it seems absurd to me in sending a
prisoner, not to indicate also the
charges against him.

Acts 25:27

What did Festus need to send with the prisoner to Rome? Festus needed some charges against Paul.

Paul had appealed to Rome so that he could appear before Caesar for trial. Paul objected to going back to Jerusalem to be tried in the religious court there. He knew the Jews wanted to kill him, whether by ambush or other means. Paul stood firmly upon his legal rights and appealed to Caesar.

Paul's appeal to Caesar left Festus in a predicament. Festus knew Paul had done nothing worthy of death. He also knew that the Jews were determined to kill Paul and would hold Festus responsible if Festus acquitted Paul and released him from custody. Festus needed to retain a good relationship with the Jews if he was going to govern effectively in Judea.

King Agrippa provided hope for Festus. The king could listen to Paul and hopefully formulate some charges that would make sense to write about Paul. Those charges would accompany Paul in a charging document on appeal to Caesar. At this point, no one had been able to articulate just why

Paul should be condemned to death, except the Jews, and they were not arguing some serious crime under Roman law.

Charges

1. **Absurd**. What seemed absurd to Festus? Sending a prisoner with no charging document.

2. **Me**. Festus made it very personal, and said it seems absurd to me. Of course, Caesar might think that Festus was absurd in sending a prisoner without a charging document.

3. **Sending**. Festus had granted Paul's request for an appeal to Caesar and so was sending him to Caesar.

4. **Prisoner**. Although Paul had been given some freedoms while staying in the Praetorium of Herod at Caesarea, he was still a prisoner of Rome.

5. **Indicate**. Festus felt the obligation to indicate the charges against Paul, although he did not receive any such charging document.

6. **Charges**. Living holy in the family of God means that the charges against Paul were all religious in nature and without proof of any kind. Therefore, finding charges against Paul to write to Caesar seemed fruitless.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because God had put Paul in just the place He wanted him to be, ready to address an auditorium full of people who needed to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul had been held in custody for years at Caesarea and no one knew the charges against him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's plans even when we do not fully understand them at the moment.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning from Paul how to flourish under difficult circumstances.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God sees the future and molds the future. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Paul gave some of his greatest sermons as a prisoner of Rome?

HALLELUJAH!

Conclusion

Paul spent considerable time traveling from church to church from Greece to Jerusalem, including some islands. Paul planted many churches, but also faced intense opposition that culminated with his arrest in Jerusalem. Paul shared his testimony and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Jewish Council in Jerusalem and with the governors in Caesarea. The words of Jesus rang true, as always, when He said that Paul would suffer greatly for the Lord Jesus and that Paul would be His messenger to governors and others in authority, including Caesar in Rome. Paul never gave up the fight and consistently proclaimed the excellencies of Jesus Christ Who called him into His service on the Damascus Road.

HALLELUJAH!