

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

Rev. Larry D. Green, Pastor

Grow. Give. Go.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE ONGOING WORK OF JESUS BY THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Book of Acts - Part 45

COURAGE IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Heartened by the Presence and Promise of Jesus

(Acts 22:30-23:35)

INTRODUCTION:

*"For, behold, the wicked bend the bow,
They make ready their arrow upon the string
To shoot in darkness at the upright in heart."*

—Psalm 11:2

PREVIOUSLY... An Ambassador in Chains: Hear my defense.

- Paul was going to Jerusalem, in spite of their counsel, in response to God's calling, and irrespective of the cost. For he was not just following the leading of the Spirit, he was following the life of the Savior.

"Brethren and fathers, hear my defense..."

—Acts 22:1

- What we learned from Paul's defense: In telling your story,... Highlight your common ground and His uncommon grace.
- What we learned from Israel's response: The Gospel is offensive to the rebellious heart.

THE STORYLINE...

- The _____ Storylines in Biblical Narratives:

1. _____ God _____ show up.

2. _____ God _____ show up.

3. _____ God _____ show up.

- OT Narrative: The _____ of God is placed at _____ and the _____ of God's people is put to the _____. And as the storyline unfolds, we witness the _____ of God to _____ and the _____ of God to _____.

- The _____ Storyline in this Narrative:

- God will accomplish His _____ [for Paul] and no one can stop it. The _____ can't stop it. The _____ can't stop. The _____ can't stop it.

1A. THE TURMOIL OF THE _____ : (22:30-23:10)

"But on the next day, wishing to know for certain **why he had been accused by the Jews**, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Council to assemble, and brought Paul down and set him before them."

—Acts 22:30

1B. How the meeting _____ : Paul's statement that upset the _____ . (23:1-5)

"I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."

2B. How the meeting _____ : Paul's statement that upset the _____ . (23:6-10)

"I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead."

2A. THE TIMING OF THE _____ : (23:11)

"But **on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side** and said, '**Take courage**; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also.'"

1B. The Lord's _____ (v. 11a)

"Take courage,... _____."

2B. The Lord's _____ (v. 11b)

"Take courage,... _____."

3A. THE THWARTING OF THE _____ : (23:12-35)

1B. The Plot _____ (23:12-15)

"When it was day, **the Jews formed a conspiracy** and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul."

—Acts 23:12

2B. The Plot _____ (23:16-22)

"But **the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush**, and he came and entered the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷ 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 23:16, 17

3B. The Plot _____ (23:23-35)

"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**.' ²⁴ They were also to provide mounts to put Paul on and bring him safely to Felix the governor."

CONCLUSION:

- God is with me where _____, and one day I will be with Him where _____. And because I know where my journey _____, it doesn't matter where my journey _____.