Acts 22:30-23:11 Experience before Jewish Council – Sadducees & Pharisees

Commander called for the Jewish Priests and Council

30 The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he released him from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.

Acts 23:1-11

Paul before the Jewish Priests and Council

- 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."
- 2 And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.
- 3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"
- 4 And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"
- ⁵ Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.' "
- ⁶ But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"
- ⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. ⁸ For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection--and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both. ⁹ Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, "We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God."

Back to the Barracks

10 Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks. [Acts 23:10]

Vision of The Lord in the Night

But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome." [Acts 23:11] NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Commander called for the Jewish Priests and Council

- The Garrison Commander, still attempting to ascertain the truth of the reason for the riot over Paul, called for the Priests and Council of the Jews to come and present their cause. [Acts 22:30]
- Paul was brought to face his accusers. [Acts 22:30]

- Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, <u>I have lived in all</u> good conscience before God until this day." [Acts 23:1]
- And the **high priest Ananias** commanded those who stood by him to **strike him on the mouth**. [Acts 23:2]
- Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"

 [Acts 23:3]
- And those who stood by said, "**Do you revile God's high priest**?" [Acts 23:4]
- Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.' [Acts 23:5]
- But when Paul perceived that one part were **Sadducees** and the other **Pharisees**, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!" [Acts 23:6]
- And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the **Pharisees** and the **Sadducees**; and the assembly was divided. For **Sadducees** say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the **Pharisees** confess both. [Acts 23:7-8]

Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, "We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God." [Acts 23:7-9]

Back to the Barracks

Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks. [Acts 23:10]

Vision of The Lord in the Night

- ₱ But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome." [Acts 23:11]

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 - ♦ Even a prisoner, the Lord says, Be of good cheer, you still have work to do.
 - ♦ We may not allow circumstances to crush our spirit or make us think we are no longer of use in the Lord's service. "Rejoice" is the instruction in all circumstances. [Philippians 4:4, Colossians 1:24, 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 1 Peter 4:12-14]