

God's Plan Overcomes an Evil Plot Acts 23

Rebukes get ugly between Paul and Ananias. 1-5

- Recall Paul was in this spot 22 yrs. ago but on the other side, 26:10,12.
- Paul appeals to his good conscience (24:16) but is rebuked with a slap.
- WWJD? Contrast Paul's response with Jesus' response in Jn. 18:21-24.

Resurrection controversy creates uproar. 6-10

- Paul sidetracks the hostile Sanhedrin by appealing to his Pharisaic roots and specifically to the contentious issue of a resurrection, cf. Mk.12:18ff.
- The split Sanhedrin looks pitifully comic, and the hearing abruptly ends.

Rescue from an evil plot furthers God's plan. 11-35

- Again Paul receives supernatural encouragement, as in 18:9-10, 27:24.
How does God encourage us in tough spots?
- This plot to kill Paul is but one of many attempts, see 9:23,29, 14:5,19, 14:24, 25:3, 27:42. Notice how this plot is foiled much like many others!
- Here the Romans come to the rescue again. There are nearly 500 troops escorting Paul to Caesarea (safer city for Paul)! Note how Claudius Lysias found no fault in Paul (v. 29) as even the Pharisees (v.9). Luke is repeatedly offering an apologetic for the church, as it is consistently exonerated by objective officials and courts, 18:14, 19:37, 26:31.
- God's plan will always prevail against human plotting. See Ps. 2, Isa. 14:24, 46:10, Prov. 19:21, Gen. 50:20, Esth. 8:3, 9:1. This gives us great hope!

