



INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

PROTECTED TO PREACH

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Once the Roman tribune realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and he couldn't beat him to extract a supposed confession, he had to find another way to determine why the riot had occurred from which he had extracted Paul the previous day. He concluded that he would require the Jewish council of religious leaders to meet. He would bring Paul before them and let them deal with Paul.

This council was made up of Sadducees and Pharisees. The High Priest and his family were from the Sadducee block, which didn't believe in any resurrection, or even in angels or spirits. The Sadducees cooperated with Rome in order to gain influence. The Pharisees were fiercely religious and were far more aligned with the truth of the scriptures. They did believe in life after death. However the Pharisees were constantly at odds with Jesus. They were hyper spiritual, but also proud and self-righteous. Paul had been a Pharisee before his conversion.

Paul, knowing this deep divide within the council well, exploited it by speaking of his faith in the resurrection. Paul believed, even more than any of them in the resurrection, for He had seen the resurrected Jesus. Bickering and anger broke out between the two factions, forcing the tribune to extract Paul once again for his own protection.

That night, the Lord Himself stood by Paul. He told him, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." The Lord would protect Paul for the express purpose of enabling him to testify of the truth of the gospel before kings. He would be protected so that he could preach.

The very next day, a plot was hatched against Paul, but the Lord kept His promise, foiling the plot. Paul was escorted under armed guard to Caesarea where he was imprisoned until he could make his defense, which meant he would speak of Christ, once again.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 22:30 – 23:35

I. Bound to preach. (21:17-40; 22:22-29)

- A. Accountability
- B. Paul practiced putting love first (21:20-26)
- C. The arrest (21:27-36; 22:22-29)

II. Anatomy of a Testimony (22:1-21)

Three Parts

- 1. Who I was. (3-5)
- 1. Who Jesus is and my salvation. (6-16)
- 1. Who I am (Jesus' commission) (17-21)

Paul's two questions:

Who are you, Lord? (22:8)

What shall I do, Lord? (22:10)

How does this apply to me?

