

# A DEEPER DIVE

Acts 22:30 - 23:22  
September 29, 2024

Comments? Suggestions? Email me, Steve Callaway, at [stvcal13@gmail.com](mailto:stvcal13@gmail.com).

**Micah 6:8** – *He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (NIV)*

**Monday:** The last few chapters of the book of Acts is one long story about what happens to Paul. Starting in chapter 21, spend the week reading through the rest of Act. It's important to see the story Luke is telling as a complete narrative and not just take it in segments.

**Reading** – Prayerfully review Acts 21-22. Ask the Lord to open your mind/heart to understand what the Holy Spirit wants to bring to your attention.

**Prayer Focus** – Spend today in personal prayer. What are you in need of? What is weighing on your heart? Health concerns? Financial issues? Dealing with sin? Are there family members and friends who are lost? Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you more opportunities to act in love and speak with grace to them. Lay everything you are dealing with before the Lord.

**Tuesday: Reading** – **Acts 23-24** – Continue to read through the rest of Acts.

**Consider this**–**Acts 22:30-23:5**

Who are the Sanhedrin? Compare Acts 23:3 with Matthew 23:27. By using this term “whitewashed” (koniao in Greek) what are Jesus and Paul saying about these leaders?

In verse 5, Paul gives what amounts to an apology. Why do you think he does this? Paul quotes Exodus 22:28. Read Romans 13:1-7. How do you think these verses apply to us today in our country?

**Prayer Focus** – Keep it local. Spend today in local prayer. Remember the prayer requests and needs from Sunday. Lift up the fellowship at NUBF. Pray for your pastors and elders. Pray for the workers at the church and the ministries. Pray for financial blessing so that the reach of the church can increase. Remind the Lord about what you prayed for yesterday.

**Wednesday: Reading** – **Acts 24-25** – Continue to read through the rest of Acts.

**Consider this** – **Acts 23:6–10**

Verses 6-10 shows that Paul knows his audience. Why does Luke make the point that Paul knew, “that some were Sadducees, and others were Pharisees? If these groups are unfamiliar, spend a moment to research who these two groups are and what they believed.

Why does Paul tell the group that he himself is a Pharisee? Why does he make the statement he makes in verse 6? What is the reaction to his statement? Do you think Paul purposefully said something that he knew would cause an argument? Why would he do that? What can we learn about Paul and his abilities based on this passage? Things really get out of hand here. How bad is it?

**Prayer Focus** – Pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders, and the upcoming election (and both candidates). In Acts 23:5 Paul quotes Exodus 22:28. Read Romans 13:1-7. Considering the coming election in our country, and the dissension that this brings, seek the Lord for how you can represent God righteously during this time. Pray for the victims and survivors of the fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. Pray that in each community the churches can come together to show the grace and love of God through helping the recovery. Remember to pray for your personal needs, and the local needs.

**Thursday: Reading – Acts 25-26** – Continue to read through the rest of Acts.

**Consider this – Acts 23:11–15**

The Lord shows His hand here. First in v 11, He comes to Paul, he, “stood near Paul,” (NIV). What does he tell Paul? How could this message be reassuring to Paul? Also, as a reader, how does this statement reassure us, considering what Luke tells us in verses 12-15?

**Prayer Focus** – Spend today in prayer for the world. Pray for those in war zones like Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, Sudan, and any other place you know of. Pray for our missionary partners. Pray for those in disaster areas. Pray for a united, active, and gospel preaching church all around the world. Remember to pray for your personal needs, the local needs, and our country.

**Friday: Reading – Acts 26-27** – Continue to read through the rest of Acts.

**Consider this–Acts 23:16–22**

In verse 16 Luke stops us short by mentioning two people that have no other reference in the Bible. Who are these people? What do they do? How are they used by God? We aren't told how Paul's nephew learned about the plot against him, but he looks out for his uncle and God uses this situation to arrange for Paul to head to Rome.

Another interesting little detail is in verse 19. How does the commander's apparent tenderness toward Paul's nephew counter a lot of our stereotypes of the Roman occupation?

**Prayer Focus** – Spend today praying for the soon return of Christ. Lift up all of the needs from the week and pray for wisdom and readiness.

**Saturday: Reading Acts 27-28** – Finish reading the rest of Acts.

Consider this– Reread Acts 22:30-23. Do so asking the Lord to prepare your mind and heart to receive the Word during the service on Sunday.

**Prayer Focus** – Spend today praying for the Pastors of NUBF and the people who are making things happen on Sunday. Include the teachers, the behind-the-scenes workers, the worship team, the regular attendees, and that there will be new people who come to the service and maybe meet Jesus for the first time.

**Sunday:** Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the