### Acts

## Chapter 23

1Well, Paul just glared at the [judges of the] Jewish Court, and said:  
  
 ‘Men… Brothers… I have a perfectly clear conscience about the way I behave before God down to this day.’  
  
2And at that, the High Priest AnaNias ordered those who were standing by him to hit him in the mouth.  
  
3So Paul said:  
  
 ‘God is going to hit you – you whitewashed wall!  
  
 ‘Do you sit there judging me by the Law, and at the same time break the Law by telling them to hit me?’  
  
4Then those who were standing by him asked:  
  
 ‘Are you speaking against the High Priest of God?’  
  
5And Paul answered:  
  
 ‘Brothers, I didn’t know he was the High Priest. For it’s written:  
  
 ‘You must not speak badly of the one who rules your people.’  
  
6Then when Paul noticed that part of the group were SadDucees and the rest were Pharisees, he called out in the High Court:  
  
 ‘Men… Brothers… It’s because I’m a Pharisee, and the son of a Pharisee, that I’m being judged over my hope in the resurrection of the dead!’  
  
7And after he said this, quite an argument broke out between the Pharisees and SadDucees, which divided the crowd, 8since the SadDucees say that there’s no such thing as a resurrection, or [divine] messengers, or the Breath [of God] – yet the Pharisees publicly preach all such things.  
  
9So there was lots of shouting, and some of the Pharisees’ scribes stood up and started heatedly arguing, saying:  
  
 ‘We don’t find anything wrong with this man!  
  
 ‘For if the Breath [of God] or [one of His] messengers spoke to him, [what of it?]’ Let us not fight against God. [spurious words, copied from Acts 5:39]  
  
10Well, the argument became so heated that the commander feared that they’d pull Paul to pieces!  
  
So he ordered the soldiers to go down and take him from their midst and bring him back to their garrison.  
  
  
11Then on the following night, the Lord stood next to [Paul] and said:  
  
 ‘Be strong!  
  
 ‘So far, you’ve thoroughly testified to things about me in ‘So far, you’ve thoroughly testified to things about me in <span class="placename">JeruSalem ‘So far, you’ve thoroughly testified to things about me in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>… But now you must also testify about me in Rome!’  
  
12Well the next morning, the Well the next morning, the <span class="placename">JudeansWell the next morning, the <span class="placename">Judeans</span> formed an alliance – they all swore with a curse that they wouldn’t eat or drink until after they’d killed Paul 13(there were more than 40 men who formed this oath-bound conspiracy).  
  
14So they went to the Chief Priests and elders and said:  
  
 ‘We’ve taken a solemn oath with a curse not to take a bite of food until after we’ve killed Paul!  
  
 15‘Therefore, we want you and the High Court to explain to the military commander that he should bring [Paul] to you so you can learn more about the charges against him… And we’ll be ready to kill him before he gets there!’  
  
16However, Paul’s nephew heard that they’d be waiting for him, so he went to the garrison and reported it to Paul.  
  
17Then Paul called one of the centurions and said:  
  
 ‘Take this young man to the commander, because he’s got something to report.’  
  
18So [the soldier] took [Paul’s nephew] to the commander and told him:  
  
 ‘The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, because he has something to tell you.’  
  
19Well, the commander took him by the hand and led him in, then he asked him privately:  
  
 ‘What do you want to report to me?’  
  
20And he answered:  
  
 ‘The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the Jewish Court tomorrow, pretending to want to learn more about the charges against him.  
  
 21‘But whatever you do, don’t let them convince you to do this, because they have more than 40 men waiting to ambush him. These men have sworn an oath with a curse not to eat or drink anything until after they’ve killed him. And now they’re ready, expecting you to promise [to do this for them].’  
  
22So at that, the commander sent the young man away, giving him the order:  
  
 ‘Don’t tell anyone that you’ve explained this to me.’  
  
23Then he called in two of his centurions and said:  
  
 ‘I want you to get 200 soldiers ready, plus 70 cavalrymen and 200 spearmen… Have them prepared to march all the way to ‘I want you to get 200 soldiers ready, plus 70 cavalrymen and 200 spearmen… Have them prepared to march all the way to <span class="placename">Caesarea ‘I want you to get 200 soldiers ready, plus 70 cavalrymen and 200 spearmen… Have them prepared to march all the way to <span class="placename">Caesarea</span> at the third hour of the night [3am in the Roman system, 9pm in the Jewish]. 24Also, provide an animal for Paul to ride, for I want you to carry him safely to Governor Felix.’  
  
25Then he wrote a letter [to Felix] that read like this:  
  
 26‘Claudius Lysias to the mighty Governor Felix:  
  
 ‘Rejoice!  
  
 27‘This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him. However, I came there quickly with a contingent of soldiers and rescued him, because I learned that he was a Roman.  
  
 28‘And because I wanted to know their accusation against him, I had him taken down to their High Court. 29There I found that they were just accusing him over questions that have to do with their Law… But he hadn’t been charged with anything that deserves death or being sent to jail.  
  
 30‘However, because I learned of a plot against this man, I’m sending him to you right away, and I’m ordering his accusers to speak against him before you.’  
  
31So these soldiers followed their orders and they took Paul to So these soldiers followed their orders and they took Paul to <span class="placename">AntiPatrisSo these soldiers followed their orders and they took Paul to <span class="placename">AntiPatris</span> that night.  
  
  
  
32Then the next day, they sent him on with the cavalry (which later returned to the garrison).  
  
33And when they got to And when they got to <span class="placename">CaesareaAnd when they got to <span class="placename">Caesarea</span>, they delivered the letter to the governor along with Paul.  
  
34Well, after he read the letter, [Felix] asked [Paul] which province he was from. And when he heard that he was from Well, after he read the letter, [Felix] asked [Paul] which province he was from. And when he heard that he was from <span class="placename">KilikiaWell, after he read the letter, [Felix] asked [Paul] which province he was from. And when he heard that he was from <span class="placename">Kilikia</span>, he said:  
  
 35‘I’ll give you a thorough hearing after your accusers get here.’  
  
So thereafter, he gave orders that [Paul] should be kept under guard in the So thereafter, he gave orders that [Paul] should be kept under guard in the <span class="placename">Praetorian Palace of HerodSo thereafter, he gave orders that [Paul] should be kept under guard in the <span class="placename">Praetorian Palace of Herod</span>.