**THE LORD STOOD NEAR PAUL**

Acts 22:30-23:35 (Key verse: 23:11)

*The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”*

1. Read 22:30. Where was Paul? How did Paul and the Sanhedrin members know each other? Why did the Roman commander send Paul to the Sanhedrin? Read 23:1.How do we know Paul was bold and fearless? Why do you think Paul begins his address to the Sanhedrin by saying: “I have *fulfilled my duty*[[1]](#footnote-1)to God in *all good conscience[[2]](#footnote-2)* to this day?”
2. Why do you think Ananias, the high priest, order Paul to be struck on the mouth? (2) How did Paul respond? (3) Why? How did Paul expose their hypocrisy? Why do you think Paul quoted Exodus 22:8 when accused of insulting the high priest? (4-5)
3. What did Paul know about the Sanhedrin? (6a) What was the difference between Pharisees and Sadducees? (8) What did Paul call out in the Sanhedrin? (6b) According to Paul, why was he on trial? What happened next? (7) Why did the commander order the troops to take Paul away from the Sanhedrin? (9-10)
4. Read verse 11. Why might Paul have been discouraged after this incident? The following night, who stood near Paul? What word of (1) encouragement and (2) promise did Jesus give Paul? Here, what can you learn about Jesus who stood near Paul when he was most vulnerable?
5. What did the Jews conspire the next morning? (12-15) But how did the Lord protect Paul? (16-24) Why did the commander send Paul to Governor Felix? (25-30) How did the Roman Governor respond to the letter? (31-35) How was the Lord quietly working in Paul’s life?

1. **Fulfilled my duty**. The original Greek word means that Paul lived in accordance with the laws of God. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Good conscience**: The original Greek word means that Paul was free from guilt [↑](#footnote-ref-2)