

/We will now begin lecture 17 on Acts./Today's passage is Acts chapter 22./The title is "Evangelism to People in Jerusalem."

/First, Paul evangelizes by sharing his testimony./Verses 1-22./Second, the people reject Paul and cause a riot./Verses 22-23./Third, the Roman commander threatens and interrogates Paul.

/Read verses 1-3. /"Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense." When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet. Then Paul said: "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

/In chapter 21 Paul went up to Jerusalem./The Jews from Asia came, accused Paul, and started a riot./That is why the commander arrested Paul./The commander thought that Paul was a rebel who had committed a serious crime.

/Here, Paul received the commander's permission to explain his situation./Paul was able to testify to his faith./In fact, he was able to witness before a large Jewish crowd.

/It is difficult for anyone to gather such a large crowd to evangelize to them./However, because of this riot, many people were gathered together.

/It was an opportunity for Paul to share the gospel./Paul then began to speak to them in Aramaic, the language the Jews spoke./The crowd became quiet when he began to speak in their native tongue.

/Paul said that he was born in Tarsus of Cilicia in Asia Minor./He was educated in the Law under Gamaliel./This Gamaliel is mentioned also in Acts 5:34.

/This Gamaliel was a member of the strictest of the Pharisaic sects./Thus, the Pharisees knew Gamaliel very well./The people began to listen to what Paul had to say.

/Verses 4-5. /I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

/Paul told them that he once severely persecuted the members of the Way./He said that he actively rebelled against Jesus./He said he persecuted those who believed in Jesus./He also set out to Damascus to put the believers in prison with permission from the high priest.

/Verse 6. /"About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me.

/Paul was on his way to Damascus with the high priest's permission./It was around noon./A bright light from heaven flashed about him./See Acts 9:3 for this account.

/Verses 7-8. /I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

"Who are you, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied.

/Then a voice from heaven spoke to him./"Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?"/Then Paul replied, "Who are you Lord?"/Jesus said, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting."

/This account is in Acts 9:5./Those who persecute followers of Jesus persecute Jesus Himself./This is because the church is the body of Christ./Jesus is the Head of the church./Therefore, persecuting the church and the believers is the same as persecuting Jesus.

/Verse 9. /My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

/His companions saw the light but did not hear the voice of Jesus./Only Saul heard Jesus' voice.

/Verse 10. /"What shall I do, Lord?' I asked. 'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.'

/At that time Jesus told Saul to go into Damascus.

/Verse 11. /My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

/Saul was blinded by the brilliance of the light./Therefore, the people with Saul had to guide him into Damascus.

/Verses 12-13. /"A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

/There was a man named Ananias who was respected and praised by the people./This Ananias was recognized and respected also by the Jews./This Ananias laid his hands on Saul./Then Saul was able to see./Acts 9:18

/Verses 14-15. /"Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

/Ananias told Saul that the God of their ancestors had chosen him./This is what Ananias said to Saul./"You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard."

/Ananias spoke of the "Righteous One."/The Righteous One is Jesus./Jesus fulfilled both the Old and New Testaments./He fulfilled all righteousness./Therefore, Ananias told Saul about Jesus.

/Ananias said to Saul, "Jesus is the one who spoke to you."/Give witness to what you have seen and heard."/Ananias told Saul to give witness about Jesus./Saul was to become a witness for Jesus.

/Verse 16. /And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

/Ananias baptized Saul./He told Saul to be baptized and wash away his sins./Saul repented at once, put his faith in Jesus, and was forgiven of his sins through baptism.

/"Baptism" is a sign of the washing away of the sins of the believer./Water baptism symbolizes the washing away of sin.

/Verse 17. /"When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance

/Paul then went into Arabia for three years to pray./Then he returned to Damascus./Then he went up to Jerusalem./Acts 9:26/Galatians 1:18/Paul fell into a trance in Jerusalem while praying./This is recorded in Acts 10:10.

/Verse 18. /and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

/At that time, Jesus told Saul to quickly leave Jerusalem./He told Saul that the Jews will not listen to Saul's words./"They will not accept your testimony."/Jesus said, "Leave Jerusalem immediately."

/Verses 19-20. /"Lord,' I replied, 'these men know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'

/Then Saul replied to Jesus./"Lord, I persecuted those who believed in you in the past."/I gave my approval when they stoned Stephen to death."/I guarded the clothes of those who killed Stephen."

/Verse 21. /"Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

/Jesus told Paul, "You shall leave Jerusalem."/Jesus told him to go to the Gentiles./Because the Jews did not accept the gospel, the gospel would now go to the Gentiles.

/Verses 22-23. /The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!" As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air,

/The Jews had listened to Paul up until this point./Yet, when they heard this all the people became enraged./They tried to kill Paul./They threw off their cloaks, flung dust in the air, and caused a riot.

/This was because the Jews believed that Gentiles could not receive God's salvation./The Jews believed that they are the only chosen people./They also thought that Jesus was dead and gone.

/Yet, Paul preached that Jesus had risen from the dead./Paul said that Jesus had told him to go to the Gentiles./What caused the riot was the fact that Paul was going to the Gentiles.

/Verse 24. /the commander ordered Paul to be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and questioned in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.

/The commander was about to flog Paul and question him./Because he had caused a big riot among the people, the commander thought that Paul had committed a serious crime./He did not know who Paul was.

/Verse 25. /As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?"

/The centurion there was about to flog Paul./Then Paul said, "I am a Roman citizen." /"I am a Roman citizen."

/Verses 26-27. /When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "This man is a Roman citizen." The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I am," he answered.

/Then the centurion heard this and reported it to the commander./Then the commander was alarmed./He became afraid after finding out that Paul was a Roman citizen./Here Paul used his Roman citizenship.

/At times we must use the rights we have in the world./All of us can use our citizenship in our country to proclaim the gospel./We can become a leader or even a mayor of a city.

/We can use every opportunity to share the gospel./Here Paul used his Roman citizenship./He used it to preach the gospel./We must use every gift and talent given to us for the gospel.

/Verses 28-29. /Then the commander said, "I had to pay a big price for my citizenship." "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied. Those who were about to question him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.

/Those who were about to examine Paul backed away, and the commander became afraid, knowing that Paul was a Roman citizen./Paul was a Roman citizen from birth. However, the commander had paid great sums of money to buy his own citizenship.

/At that time, the Roman government sold citizenships to make money./The government sold the citizenships so that they could collect taxes./Here, the commander had paid a lot of money for his citizenship.

/The commander knew how important this citizenship was and so he became afraid./It was against the law to bind, flog, or imprison a Roman citizen without reason./This was because Roman citizens had protective rights.

/Verse 30. /The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

/The commander wanted to find out why Paul was being accused./Hence, he gathered the chief priests

and the Sanhedrin./He wanted to find out why they were accusing Paul.

/We will continue the lecture with Acts chapter 23./The title of chapter 23 is “The Sanhedrin Questions Paul.”

/First, Paul testifies before the Sanhedrin./Verses 1-10./Second, the Lord comforts Paul./Verse 11./Third, the men plot to kill Paul./ Verses 12-15./ Fourth, /God rescues Paul./Verses 16-30./Fifth, Paul is transferred to Caesarea./Verses 31-35./

/Read verse 1. /Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day."

/The commander set Paul before the Sanhedrin and questioned him./The commander needed to know the reason for the accusation of the Jews./Paul began to give his testimony before the Sanhedrin./He again took the opportunity to defend himself.

/Paul then testified about Jesus./In this way, Paul was given an opportunity to tell others about Christ./In Acts 22, Paul had testified before the people of Jerusalem.

/In today’s passage Paul testifies about Christ before the religious leaders./After this he would also do the same before the king./He would also share the gospel before a Roman governor./As a prisoner, Paul was given the opportunity to share the gospel within many officials of different levels of the government.

/Here Paul said that he lived in good conscience before God./Believers must always have good consciences./2 Timothy 1:3./1 Timothy 1:15./1 Peter 3:21/We must obey with clear consciences.

/God leads us through our consciences./If we throw away our consciences, our faith will be thrown out as well./If we say that our consciences is the front of our hand, then faith is the back of our hand.

/Our consciences as believers must be kept clear according to God’s word./Our consciences must be guided through the Bible./Of course, our consciences are not everything./The Bible is more important than what our consciences may tell us./The Bible has the final authority in our lives.

/Verse 2. /At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.

/The high priest Ananias ordered the person standing next to Paul to strike him./This was not right./A religious leader was violent.

/A true man of faith must never use violence./We must win people through the gospel./We must win through love./We must win through the truth.

/Verse 3. /Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"

/Paul called the high priest “You whitewashed wall!”/“God will strike you.”/A “whitewashed wall” is

white on the outside but dirty on the inside.

/Paul said God would strike down Ananias./This Ananias was killed in a Jewish war sometime later./The Law says that no one can strike another who is without sin./There must be sin to punish another./Deuteronomy 25:1-2.

/Verses 4-5. /Those who were standing near Paul said, "You dare to insult God's high priest?" Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.'"

/People accused Paul of insulting God's high priest./Then Paul said that he did not know that he was the high priest./Paul admitted his wrongdoing right away./He humbled himself right away.

/The Bible says, "Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people."/Exodus 22:28/It is good to admit our wrongs right away.

/Verses 6-8. /Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.)

/There were two sects in the Sanhedrin./One was the Sadducees,/and the other was the Pharisees./These two sects were the two biggest sects in the Sanhedrin./The Pharisees believed in the existence of angels and spirits.

/They also believed in the resurrection./However, the Sadducees did not believe in the existence of angels, spirits, or the resurrection./Paul said to the Sanhedrin that he was a Pharisee./He said that he believed in the resurrection.

/Then he went on to testify about Jesus Christ's resurrection./The Pharisees then came to believe that Paul was one of them./The beliefs of the Pharisees and Paul were similar.

/However, the Pharisees did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ./They just wanted to use Paul's testimony to support their own views./The Sadducees did not believe in anything supernatural.

/However, the Pharisees had a similar view of that of Paul./Yet, they did not believe in the resurrection of Christ./They simply want to use Paul's testimony to support their own views.

/Verse 9. /There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. "We find nothing wrong with this man," they said. "What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

/There was a great uproar./The Pharisees took Paul's side and defended him./The Pharisees used Paul to win the Sadducees./They still did not believe in Jesus./In the end, these two sects got into an argument.

/Verse 10. /The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

/There was a big dispute in the Sanhedrin./The commander had to protect Paul./Paul was able to share the gospel to the members of the Sanhedrin./Then when Paul's life was in danger, the commander went and protected him.

/In this way, God used Paul to proclaim Jesus to the members of the Sanhedrin./Then God used the commander to protect Paul.

/Verse 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."

/That night, Jesus appeared to Paul./Jesus told him to take courage./"As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

/Jesus gave Paul courage and strength./Jesus encouraged him./Jesus gave him his calling./Jesus told Paul that he was to go to Rome and testify there./Paul heard these words and was comforted and received hope and courage.

/Verses 12-13. /The next morning the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. More than forty men were involved in this plot.

/The Jews formed a conspiracy and formed a group bound by an oath./They said that they not eat or drink until they had killed Paul./Then they committed themselves to putting Paul to death.

/They plotted to kill him by bringing him back to the Sanhedrin./They were going to request that Paul be brought out from the commander and kill him when he did./The Jews planned to kill Paul in this way.

/Verses 16-18. /But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul. Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him." So he took him to the commander. The centurion said, "Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you."

/The son of Paul's sister heard about this plot./Paul's nephew found out about the plot./Then Paul's nephew came looking for him.

/Paul's nephew told the commander everything about this plot./Although the Jews tried to keep their plot a secret, it was found out by Paul's nephew./Paul's nephew then went and told the commander about it.

/In the end, this plot of the Jews became nothing./God stopped this plan of the Jews to kill Paul./God revealed the plot through Paul's nephew.

/God stopped the Jews conspiracy to stop the gospel and kill Paul./God protected Paul.

/Verses 22-24. /The commander dismissed the young man and cautioned him, "Don't tell anyone that you have reported this to me." Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. Provide mounts for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix."

/Paul would have been killed if he went to Jerusalem./Paul was a citizen of Rome./He did not commit any serious crimes./Therefore, the commander needed to protect Paul.

/The commander wanted to send Paul to Caesarea./He prepared 200 soldiers,/70 horsemen,/200 spearmen,/and horses for this.

/Then the commander sent a letter to the governor./The contents of that letter is written in detail./Paul was a Roman citizen./The commander witnessed Paul's trial before the Sanhedrin.

/However, the issue had to do with the Jewish law./Paul did not kill anyone nor did he do anything that deserved punishment./Yet, the Jews plotted to kill Paul.

/Hence, the commander sent this letter to Governor Felix./Then he said that he was sending Paul to him.

/Verses 31-32. /So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris. The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks.

/The soldiers carried out their orders and secretly took Paul during the night to Antipatris./The soldiers returned, and the cavalry took Paul to the governor./Caesarea is located northwest of Jerusalem,/and is located by a bay.

/Paul was able to be safely transferred to the governor through the protection of the soldiers./God protected Paul./Esther 6:11/Psalm 23:4-5/No matter what the world tries to do to us, if God is for us then we will remain in his protection.

/Life and death are in God's hands./God protected Paul the servant of the gospel./Paul received protection from the commander and governor of the Gentiles.

/We do not know how or through whom God will protect us./The point is that God protects his servants who preach the gospel.

/Verse 33. /When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him.

/The cavalry arrived safely in Caesarea./The commander's letter was handed to the governor./1 Corinthians 3:22/If we are faithful to the point of death, God will protect us./Everything in the world was created for believers.

/We must not worry about what we will eat and what we will wear./We do not worry about who will harm us when we live for the gospel./If we are obedient, God will provide food and clothing./He will



provide material things.

/God will protect us even in times of danger./Mark 16:18/God said that he will protect evangelists.

/Verses 34-35. /The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, he said, "I will hear your case when your accusers get here." Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's palace.

/The governor found out that Paul was from Cilicia./Cilicia is in Asia Minor,/and is a province of Rome./Because Paul was a Roman citizen, he was to be tried according to Roman law.

/In the end Paul was protected by the Roman law./The governor said that he would give Paul the chance to speak when his accusers got there. /Romans citizens were given chances to speak while on trial.

/Here, "Herod's palace" was the palace of the queen of Herod./It was used as a government house.

/Here we will conclude the seventeenth lecture of Acts./Thank you.