

## Acts 23

**LW** – Paul’s defense before fellow Jews – Personal Testimony

**TW** – Defense before Sanhedrin

### **V1**

1. Looking Earnestly/Earnestly Beholding (KJV) – @ Sanhedrin

**Acts 6:15**<sup>15</sup> And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

**Mark 10:20-21**<sup>20</sup> And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

\* How does one do this? By the Spirit (Stephen – Filled w/Spirit)

2. Lived in all Good Conscience

**Hebrews 13:18**<sup>18</sup> Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.

**2 Corinthians 1:12**<sup>12</sup> For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

\* How does one do this – By the Spirit

**Galatians 5:16-17**<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.<sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

### **V2-5**

\* Improbable that Paul did not know the High Priest, So 1 of 3

1. Didn’t know it was the High Priest who ordered him slapped

2. Due to bad eyesight – didn’t see it was the High Priest

3. Speaking sarcastically – No way High Priest would do this!

\* But his initial statement – Angered at Hypocrisy!!!

**Matthew 23:13**<sup>13</sup> “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

### **V6-9**

1. Two Religious parties of Jewish Faith/Members of Sanhedrin

\* Pharisee – (Heb) “to Separate” = Separatists – Pious/Self Righteous

\* Sadducee – “the righteous”

2. Major difference – V8

3. Paul capitalized on Division

\* Belief systems became more important than God’s Word!

**Psalms 138:2**<sup>2</sup> I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

\* Main point of Gospel – Concerning Hope/Resurrection of the Dead

**1 Corin 15:16-20** – No Resurrection, Christ is Risen, Firstfruits

\* We rather proclaim Gospel than argue about Religion!!!

**V10** – “Bad Day in the Ministry!” ☺

\* The Self Professed Godly Acting so UnGodly

**1 Peter 2:12**<sup>12</sup> having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

### **V11**

1. Lord stood by Him! **Rom 8:31** If God is for us, who can be against us?

2. Be of Good Cheer - Paul was now 0 for 2!

3. Testified in Jerusalem – Rome – Good News/Bad News!

**John 15:5**<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

### **V12-22**

\* Their plans vs. God’s plan! Thwarted by a little boy/right place/time!

**Proverbs 19:21**<sup>21</sup> There are many plans in a man’s heart, Nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.

**Isaiah 8:10**<sup>10</sup> Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; Speak the word, but it will not stand, For God is with us.”

### **V23-35**

1. Half truths/slanted perspectives/purposeful omissions...

**Conclusion** - Primary Point Today

“Everywhere the gospel of the risen Savior is to be proclaimed. To stop at the cross is to preach but a half gospel. (H.A. Ironside 18/Moody)