

## ACTS 23; October 24; 40 Jews Plot to Murder Paul

### ANALYSIS:

1. What did Paul say about his conscience? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Paul treat those in positions of rulership?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What basic difference do you learn here between the Pharisees and Sadducees? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who learned about the 40+ Jews who vowed to kill Paul and whom did he tell? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many Romans safely escorted Paul to Caesarea? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

The Lord personally visited Paul in the night. He appeared to “cheer” Paul who had just faced the Jewish council. This was the council which had crucified Jesus. This same council had stoned Stephen to death and persecuted the early church. Paul had been a member of this council. Now he longs for these kinsmen in the flesh to see and confess Christ as their righteousness. He opens his heart by saying, I have “great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart” for “my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge” (Rom 9:2; 10:1-2). In their rejection of Christ, the council turned their fury against Paul so that Roman soldiers had to rescue him from being torn apart. The Lord assured Paul that he would bear witness also at Rome. His life was safe, and so is yours and mine, in our Heavenly Father’s watchcare. “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows” (Mt 10:29-31).

Whenever we are in a dangerous situation, or find some fear stalking us, let us recall the above verses, and humbly confess our trust in our Father’s care. “I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust” (Ps 91:2).

### HELP:

1. Paul said he had lived in all good conscience before God until this day (v 1).
2. Paul always meant to obey the scriptures, which say, “Thou shall not speak evil of the ruler of thy people” (v 5).
3. The Sadducees deny the resurrection, angels, and spirits. The Pharisees confess all three (v 8).
4. Paul’s sister’s son. He told Paul, who sent word to the chief captain, who then talked with the boy (vs 16-22).
5. 200 soldiers, 70 horseman, 200 spearman [What an honor guard for God’s man, Paul!] (v 23).