

Message Title: “THE PLOT THICKENS”

Series: ACTS 180 – When the World
Was Turned Upside Down!

180 Church | Acts 22:23-24:27

Pastor Harlyn | Oct 31, 2021

Acts 22:23 – 25 “And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?”

Acts 23:1-5 “And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” ² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³ Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?” ⁴ Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God's high priest?” ⁵ And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

Acts 23:11-13 “The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome. ¹² When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. ¹³ There were more than forty who made this conspiracy.”

Acts 24: 22-23 “But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.” ²³ Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.

Acts 24:24-27 “After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.” ²⁶ At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. ²⁷ When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.”

See Movie: “Sabina” Nov 8-9 at Theatres.

What does someone, who is _____ do if they are completely confident that God is with them?

TODAY – will I respond to my _____ like I have to control them and manipulate them to make things happen, OR, can I trust that God is in them because He is with me and He is for me?

LOOK IN:

1. In this story and throughout the book of Acts, we see that sometimes God intervenes to keep people safe and other times he allows them to come to harm or even be killed. What about that do you find comforting? What do you find challenging?
2. Does how Paul responds to unfair treatment encourage or challenge you? How?
3. Have you ever heard (though maybe not through an audible voice) God tell you to do anything or make a promise to you? What did you hear and what happened afterwards?
4. Is there anything that you are waiting for God on right now? How does this passage/sermon encourage or challenge you?
5. What would it look like in your life right now if you were completely confident that God is with you? What would you do differently? What might be the same?