



Week 20 Acts 22:30-23:11 (read it!)

Recap

1) Can someone in the group give a recap of what is happening in Paul's life at the time of this passage? If not, quickly look through 21:27-22:29 to refresh yourself.

23:1 - Paul "looked straight at the Sanhedrin."

2) Compare 23:1 with 13:9 & 14:9 for insight on Luke's meaning.

23:2 Ananias responds to Paul

3) Why does Ananias strike Paul on the mouth rather than engage him verbally? Aside from indicating he doesn't like what Paul said, what is his ultimate intent with this act?

4) What violent responses do you find arising in your own life and world?

23:3 Paul responds harshly

5) Does this response indicate the kind of character Paul later describes in Gal. 5:22-23? Does this response add anything new to your perception of Paul?

23:4-5 Paul is rebuked and repents

6) Paul had been away for the time that Ananias was high priest. Is Paul's explanation that he didn't know who Ananias was believable to you, or given their previous interaction, do you think Paul is being sarcastic here?

7) Can you think of examples of authority (in the church or in society) which we must respect and examples which we should subversively respond to?

23:6-8 Paul addresses the Sanhedrin

8) Paul's statement about resurrection causes a dispute between the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Do you think Paul's intent was to create such a dispute? Or was he simply seeking an ally in the Pharisee group before a hostile high priest?

23:9-11 Escape and Assurance

9) What does Jesus' appearance to Paul reveal to us about how Paul was experiencing all of this? Are there events in your life that others view as exciting or even positive that you yourself are distressed by?

10) While addressed to Paul in a very particular situation, how can we hear Jesus' word of encouragement in our own lives?