

Paul: Shrewd as A Snake!

Matt. 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Acts 22:22 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!” 23 As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, 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. 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?” 26 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.” 27 The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” “Yes, I am,” he answered. 28 Then the commander said, “I had to pay a big price for my citizenship.” “But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied. 29 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.

Paul’s Moments with the Soldiers:

1. Paul was _____ because of his comments about the _____.
2. To get to the _____ of this conflict the commander ordered that Paul be _____.
3. Paul said, “I have a _____ question . . .”
4. The commander had _____ someone for _____ citizenship.
5. Paul’s citizenship, on the other hand, was a _____.
6. This fact _____ those who arrested Paul.

Acts 22:30 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. 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.” 2 At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. 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!” 4 Those who were standing near Paul said, “You dare to insult God’s high priest?” 5 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.’” 6 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.” 7 When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.) 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?” 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.

Paul’s Moments with the Sanhedrin:

1. The commander _____ wanted to get to the bottom of this _____.
2. He _____ that the Sanhedrin have a _____.
-- Who was the Sanhedrin?
-- Paul’s relationship to the Sanhedrin.
3. Paul stated that he was _____ God’s _____ for his life.
4. Paul was struck _____ in the face. This was also _____.
5. Paul was _____ because the law had been _____.
6. Paul then _____ when he learned that this was the _____.
7. Then, realizing that he couldn’t get a _____ from this group, Paul threw them into _____.
8. His statement concerning the resurrection caused the two groups to forget _____ “offense” and go after _____.
9. Finally, for the _____ time, the commander intervened to _____ Paul’s life.

Acts 23:11 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.”

Paul’s Moment with His Master:

1. The Lord _____ to Paul.
2. The Lord _____ Him.
3. The Lord _____ him and told him his _____.

How Does the Master Speak to You through this Study?

In what way has Paul’s story challenged you to be more Christ-like?