

## Power to Witness in Word and Deed —Part 2


*The Book of Acts*

**Acts 22:30—23:11**

**Review Acts 21:30–34, 37–40 and 22:22–29. Read Acts 22:30—23:11.**


1. Whom does the Roman commander order to assemble for Paul’s hearing? (22:30)


Why? (22:30)


2. What accusations do the Jews make against Paul? (21:27–29)
3. With what attitude does Paul address the Sanhedrin? (23:1)
4. Paul says, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day” (23:1). How has Paul fulfilled his duty to God in good conscience? (20:20–24; 24:10–16; \* 2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Pet. 3:15-16)
5. Why do you think the high priest, Ananias, has Paul struck on the mouth (23:2)?

Is this allowed by Jewish law at this point in the hearing? (Deut. 25:1–3)

6. How does Paul respond to this unjust treatment? (23:3)

What does Paul mean by his response? (23:3; Mt. 23:27–28;  Ezek. 13:10–16)

\*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

7. Paul is informed that he has just insulted the high priest (23:4). How does Paul's response refute the accusation that he teaches against Jewish law (21:28)? (23:5; Exod. 22:28;  Deut. 17:12–13)
  
8. Paul states that he is on trial because of his hope in the resurrection of the dead (23:6).
  - a. What main theological issues divide the Sadducees from the Pharisees? (23:8)
  
  - b. What happens to the unity of the Sanhedrin when Paul mentions the resurrection? (23:7–10)
  
  - c. Do you think “the hope of the resurrection of the dead” (23:6) is the real reason Paul is on trial?
  
9. What strikes you most about the ending to Paul's hard day? (23:9–11)
  
10. Ananias was a corrupt high priest for more than ten years. He used the power of his position and wealth to further his own interest through cruelty and violence.<sup>1</sup>  
How is Jesus, our heavenly high priest, so different from Ananias? (Heb. 7:23–27; 2:17–18)
  
11. What does Jesus say to those who are persecuted for his name? (Mt. 5:10–12)

How does this comfort you when you encounter animosity toward the gospel?

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<sup>1</sup> F. F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988), 425.