

CP – 5/12/24

Acts 23:11–35 - Providential Protection

Sermon Outline

God is always at work.

- Sometimes in the supernatural and miraculous
- Always in the normal affairs of man

Miracles: God invading the ordinary

Providence: God's ruling of the universe to His intended purpose through the ordinary

- In this text, you have two narratives:
 1. What is going on ground level (earth)
 2. What is going on above (heaven)
 - One will be a plot to kill a man and then providing protection for him.
 - One is God staying faithful to His promise and using the ordinary to protect His servant Paul,

1. The Lord's Promise (23:11)

- "So you must testify also in Rome"
- **Hebrews 10:23**
- How timely are the promises of God in your life?
- When we can't see it, we trust that God is faithful to Himself and His people.
- Make God's promises your companion.
 - Promises: eternal life, a child of God, access to God, adopted, loved, chosen, created for a purpose, accepted, cared for, forgiven, free from condemnation, peace with God, strengthened by the Lord, not forsaken, an inheritance, overcomer, righteous, you have an advocate, God is working in you, living hope, protected to the end, complete in Christ, nothing can separate you from God's love
 - The promises are for the one who has been born again (2 Cor. 1:20)
 - Be careful about proclaiming promises that may not pertain to you.
 - But claim them if you've been born again!

2. The Jews' Plot (23:12–15)

- More than 40 Jews placed a curse on themselves to kill Paul.
- The enemies of God will always plot against the plan and people of God, but no weapon formed against God's people will prosper. God will thwart the plan of the enemy. (Psalm 2:2, 4)

3. The Lord's Providential Protection (23:16–35)

- Through Paul's nephew (16–22) (Roman citizenship)
- Through the Roman tribune (22–30) (saving face)
- Through the Roman army (31–35) (law/order)

Application

- God is faithful.
 - He will use you for His glory.
 - He will use it for His glory and your good.
 - He will get you to glory in heaven.
- Do not miss the Lord at work in the ordinary.
- God is for you in Christ Jesus

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon from Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. What is meant when we say “the providence of God?”
3. What did God promise Paul? (See Acts 23:11). How was God faithful to His promise by using very ordinary measures to keep Paul safe?
4. Why should we make the promises of God our companions? What does it mean that all the promises of God find their yes and amen in Christ? (See 2 Cor. 1:20). What's the danger of claiming the promises of God while someone hasn't trusted in Christ as their Savior?
5. How does Psalm 2 give light to Acts 23:11–35?
6. How does the passage from Sunday give you hope? What's the application in your own life?