

# ACTS

## **Chaos - Acts 22:30-23:35**

February 22nd, 2015

### **OBSERVE & REFLECT**

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

#### **READ Acts 22:30-23:35**

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

### **INVESTIGATE & APPLY**

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

1. Read 22:30-23:1. Paul is facing death any minute. What do we see here as one of the secrets of his boldness? Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-4 for more of Paul's description of what a "good conscience" is. How can we have a good conscience when we know that we are sinners?
2. Read 23:1-5. Scholars are divided about why Paul didn't recognize Ananias as the High Priest. What do you think? Was Paul's anger wrong? What stands out to you about how Paul responded when he found out he was the High Priest?
3. What is the source of conflict between the Sadducees and the Pharisees in verses 6-10? What is Paul's argument?
4. Read v.11. What effect do you think the Lord's appearance and message had on Paul as you consider what he had been through and what he was yet to face?
5. How do you see God continuing to protect Paul in v.12-35?

## chaos

[key-os]

noun

a state of utter confusion or disorder; a total lack of organization or order.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- We see 2 scenes that appear to us, and to Paul, to be complete chaos. Yet, in between the 2 scenes, a single promise from Jesus to Paul turns the chaos into calmness. God's promises do the same for us. Take some time to process what feels like chaos in your life, and to look to God's promises to bring calmness.
  - What is the "chaos" of your life? What situations or problems feel completely out of control and are leading you to anxiety and confusion? Be thorough and specific.
  - God has promised us many things, but among the greatest are love, freedom, rest and power. Take some time to read the following promises and reflect on how they help you find a sense of calmness in the midst of whatever feels like chaos in your life.

Love (1 John 4:9-11)

Freedom (Galatians 5:1, 13-15)

Rest (Matthew 11:28-30)

Power (Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:7)