Amman International Church Men’s Breakfast Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

14 May 2024 Single Message

NLT 40 Minutes

**Testifying During Injustice**

***Acts 23***

**Topic:** Injustice

**Subject:** How does God use injustice in our lives?

**Complement:** God uses unlikely people during injustice to help us testify for Him.

**Purpose:** The listeners will watch for how God might use them for his plan when they are treated unjustly.

# Introduction

### Interest: Injustice regularly happens to believers.

### Need: How might you be experiencing injustice for Christ?

### Subject: How does God use injustice in our lives?

### Background: Paul’s enemies trying to kill him in Jerusalem led him before the Jewish High Council.

### Preview: Today we will see how God used this injustice for His purposes.

### Text: The introduction begins in Acts 22:30, but we will study through Acts 23.

(How does God use injustice in our lives?)

# I. God gives us opportunities to witness during injustice (1-11).

[Sometimes trials give us the chance to share Jesus.]

## Paul testified of Christ’s resurrection during an unjust appearance before the Sanhedrin (1-11).

### Paul apologized for insulting the high priest who had him struck (1-5).

### Paul divided the Council over the resurrection (6-11).

## God can use the thing we try to avoid for us to witness.

(How else does God use injustice in our lives?)

# II. God raises up unlikely people to protect us during injustice (12-35).

[The Lord can use anyone to help us as his people.]

## God thwarted a plan to kill Paul by using unlikely people (12-35).

### Paul’s nephew revealed to the Roman commander that some Jews vowed not to eat until they killed Paul (12-22).

### The commander rescued Paul and brought him from Jerusalem to Caesarea (23-35).

## God uses surprising things and people to protect us today.

### Sometimes God protects us through powerless people like Paul’s nephew.

### Other times God protects us through godless people like the commander.

(How does God use injustice in our lives?)

# Conclusion

### God uses unlikely people during injustice to help us testify for Him (MI).

### Application: During your times of injustice…

#### Take the witnessing opportunities.

#### Trust God to protect you through unlikely means.

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just before this passage?

### Paul was arrested during a riot against him in Jerusalem when he was being beaten by those supposing that he had brought a Gentile into the temple area (21:29).

### He was about to be whipped when the commander learned from Paul that he was a Roman citizen (22:29).

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Paul shows in his testimony that Christianity is not a dangerous or illegal sect.

### Here is an example of God granting believers the privilege to testify for Christ in unjust situations.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Jews tried to kill Jesus but had no authority to execute anyone. The same law prohibited them from killing Paul, so what started as a trial before the high council (Sanhedrin) devolved into a plot to kill him on the next day en route to the council (23:12-15).

### A similar plot is happening to President Trump right now. Democrats cannot prevent him from running a second time against Joe Biden, so they have a plot to tie him up in the courts on false pretenses. But the present trial in NYC fails on at least seven courts:

#### The so-called false accounting of his NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) with Stormy Daniels took place in 2028, so the 5-year statute of limitations is expired.

#### No specific crime has been specified.

#### Witnesses of the prosecution are not revealed, as is required by law.

#### The case is federal but tried in a state court over which it has no jurisdiction.

#### The judge Juan Merchan is a Democratic operative and donor, but he has not recused himself from the case.

#### The judge has placed a gag order on Trump but not on the witnesses in the trial.

#### The case is a classic case of election interference, as it occurred during the 2024 election, with Trump as the leading candidate.

# Questions

### What do we learn about God in Acts 23?

#### God grants us opportunities through difficulties (11a).

#### We are invincible until God fulfills his plans for us (11b).

#### God uses unlikely people to defend us (16-22).

### What do we learn about man in Acts 23?

#### People will go to great lengths to protect their power—even killing someone (12-15).

#### People typically make themselves look like heroes even when they have done wrong (27-30).

### What promises or warnings do we find in Acts 23?

#### Enemies of the gospel oppose us (Acts 23).

#### God encourages us during trials (11).

### What application(s) can you make from Acts 23?

#### Apologize when you are wrong—even to those who abuse you (5).

#### Use the authority and position God gave you for his glory (6).

### Why did Ananias have Paul slapped for saying that he had always lived before God with a clear conscience (1-2)? What was wrong with Paul making this claim?

#### The Jews were so angry at Paul that the high priest likely felt that Paul was not worthy to make such a bold claim.

#### “Ananias’ response is in keeping with what is known about him from Josephus, who described him as insolent, hot-tempered, profane, and greedy. Ironically, at the beginning of Paul’s ministry another Ananias helped him receive his sight” (Stanley D. Toussaint, *Acts*, in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*; eds. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck; Accordance electronic ed. 2 vols. [Wheaton: Victor Books, 1983), 2:419).

### Why did Paul accuse Ananias of hypocrisy (3)?

#### The high priest was being hypocritical by violating the Law in a case designed to prove someone else violating it.

#### The Left typically accuses others of doing what they are doing.

### Who did Paul think Ananias was (5)?

#### The commotion probably confused matters, and Ananias evidently was not wearing his priestly garb.

#### Paul probably just thought Ananias to be someone in charge of the trial as he had not been to Jerusalem for many years and thus could not recognize the high priest.

### Was Paul right to divide the Council over the resurrection (6)?

#### He realized that he was not going to get a fair trial.

#### Paul was shrewd to get the Pharisees to support him.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

God uses events beyond our control to enable us to testify for him.

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

**Testifying During Injustice**

***Acts 23***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way that God protected Paul during an unjust trial by using unlikely people.

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# II. God thwarted a plan to kill Paul by using unlikely people (12-35).

## Paul’s nephew revealed to the Roman commander that some Jews vowed not to eat until they killed Paul (12-22).

## The commander rescued Paul and brought him from Jerusalem to Caesarea (23-35).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will watch for how God might use them for his plan when they are treated unjustly.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

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**Rick Griffith**

2023

Message of 10

**Title**

***Passage***

# Introduction

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# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# Conclusion

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### Application question

**Thought Questions**

1. Read the passage aloud. Contrast:

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| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Contrast** |
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1. Text-based question

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Text

Text

1. Application to your own Christian experience

Text

Text

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