

# Acts 23:12-35

## Some Conspiracy Theories are Actually True

### **An Inside Look:**

#### **The Conspiracy to Murder Paul v12-15**

...a plot was organized and men bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. There were more than forty who made this conspiracy.

They went to the Chief Priests and Elders and said, we have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul...give notice to the Colonel to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near.

### **Knowledge is Power:**

#### **Paul Acts Decisively vs the Conspiracy v16-22**

Paul's nephew, heard of the conspiracy so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. Paul called one of the centurions and asked him to take the young man to the Colonel...The Colonel took him aside for privacy, and Paul's nephew filled him in on this life or death situation. The Colonel dismissed the young man and charged him to tell no one about any of this.

### **Human Virtue at Work:**

#### **Honorable Soldiers "Did What It Took" to Secure Paul's Life as They Transported Him to the Governor in Caesarea v23-35**

The Colonel called two centurions and told them to ready 200 soldiers, along with 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night to make certain that Paul would be taken safely to Felix the Governor.

And he wrote a letter to this effect:

Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the Governor Felix, greetings. This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers

and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen. <sup>28</sup> And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council. <sup>29</sup> I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. <sup>30</sup> And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.

So the soldiers, took Paul by night to Antipatris. And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the Governor, they formally presented Paul to him. After reading the Colonel's letter, he asked what province Paul was from. And when he learned Paul was from Cilicia, he said, I will give you a legal hearing when your accusers arrive from Jerusalem. And he commanded for Paul to be guarded in the Praetorium originally built by Herod the Great.

## **Living in a Fallen World 101**

### **Some Conspiracy Theories Are Actually True!?!**

Which Among Many Other Things Means:  
Believers \_\_\_\_\_ Must Both Rest in the Providence of God  
and at the Same Time Personally/Actively Resist Evil in Us/Around Us

Christianity is Not a Spectator Sport