

2. The Spread of the Gospel cannot be STOPPED.

- **God's PURPOSE:** to glorify Himself through the SPREAD of the GOSPEL.
- **God's PROMISE:** "so you must testify also in Rome." (Acts 23:11)
- **God's PROVIDENCE:** God's working out ALL THINGS in order to fulfill His promise to get Paul to Rome for the spread of the Gospel.

3. The Spread of the Gospel is worth EVERYTHING we give to it.

- This is what God is doing in the world and we get to JOIN HIM.
- No greater JOY.
- No greater PRIVILEGE.
- No greater PURPOSE.
- Nothing of greater VALUE.
- Nothing greater or better to which we could GIVE OUR LIVES.



A Plot to Kill Paul

Acts 23:11-35

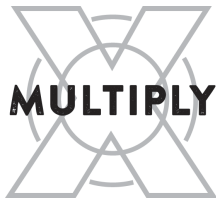
Sunday, November 12, 2017

Luke, the author of Acts, gives a fair amount of time, space and attention to the thwarting of this strange plot to kill Paul in the second half Acts 23. Why? What is Luke's aim? What does he want to us to see . . . and think about . . . and learn?

Here are 3 less obvious, but super challenging takeaways . . .

1. The Spread of the Gospel is a THREAT to all other WORLDVIEWS.

- Good News that crushes SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- Good News that we must be saved BY GOD.
- Good News that salvation is a GIFT of GRACE.
- Good News for ALL SINNERS EVERYWHERE.



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Growth Group Week 7 of 9

Connecting Together (30 min)

It's week 7 of Fall Growth Groups. As usual, don't neglect to take time to catch up and connect with each other. One suggestion this week is to share "highs and lows" from the past week.

Grappling Together (30 min)

1. When God's Word is preached, God speaks to His people! How did you sense God speaking to you in the text/message this week?
2. Take some time to read Acts 23:11-35 together as a group. Break up the text to involve multiple readers. How did we get here? What has led up to this plot to kill Paul?
3. Most of the opposition and hostility that Paul faces throughout Acts has come at the hands of his own countrymen, the Jews, not Romans. What are some reasons why the Gospel is a threat to Judaism? Why is the Gospel a threat to Islam? To communism? To secularism?

4. What is God's promise to Paul in Acts 23:11? How is this in line with God's grand purpose in this world? How do we see God's providence at work in the thwarting of this plot to kill Paul and the fulfilling of God's promise? How does this weaving together of God's purpose, promises and providence practically apply in our lives?

5. Paul gives everything for God's grand purpose to glorify Himself through the spread of the Gospel. What are some of the lesser things to which we give our lives and why?

6. What are the things that hold you back from giving more of yourself (time, money, energy, effort, sacrifice, heart) for the spread of the Gospel?

Praying Together (30 min)

- Pray for your own captivation with God's grand purpose of glorifying Himself through the spread of the Gospel.
- Pray for Gospel boldness and for those in your circle of influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- Pray for one another's needs.