

Oxford Baptist Church – July 23 – Tyler Bowles
Acts: "The Gospel Will Not Fail." – Acts 22:30-23:35

Recap

- Paul has been arrested in Jerusalem
- They don't know what the charges are against him
- Escaped flogging because he was a Roman citizen
- Spends the night in the Barracks as a prisoner

Verse 11

- Verse 11 is the focal point of the chapter
- We will examine 2 main ideas
 - Take Courage
 - Testify in Rome
- Each has 3 events in it

Take Courage | Acts 22:30-23:11

- The High Priest | v30-5
 - Lysias, the commander, wants to find out why everyone is angry at Paul, what are the charges?
 - Releases Paul from custody
 - Holds meeting with chief priests and council
 - Paul's opening remarks anger the council
 - The chief priest has Paul struck
 - Paul responds angrily
 - Paul didn't realize he was talking to the high priest
 - He apologizes
- Sadducees & Pharisees | v6-9
 - After his mistake Paul turns the attention from himself
 - He starts a debate about the resurrection
 - Things turn violent
 - God has you in the perfect place, you are the right person for the Job
 - *What skills and knowledge can you use in the situations God has placed you?*
- The Barracks | v10-11

- Paul is placed in protective custody and returned to the barracks
- Jesus visits Paul offering encouragement
- His failures today were not too much to stop the gospel
- He will go to Rome
- *Do you feel like your failure make you an ineffective minister of the gospel*
- *Do you trust that the Gospel will not fail?*

Testify in Rome | Acts 23:12-35

- The Plot to Kill Paul | v12-15
 - The Jews want Paul dead
 - A group vows to kill Paul and hatches a plan with the council to ambush him
- The Nephews News | v16-22
 - Paul's nephew finds out about the plot and tells Paul
 - Paul sends him to the tribune who listens
 - *Do you trust that God is working through the lives of unexpected people to spread the gospel?*
- The Commanders Deliverance | 23:23-35
 - Paul gets an escort to Caesarea by 470 soldiers
 - Lysias writes a letter to Felix, the only secular letter in the New Testament
 - Paul is held in Caesarea awaiting a hearing with Felix and the Jewish council

Conclusion

- Paul wasn't perfect but in his failures God is bigger and he receives grace
- God is working all things together, even in unexpected people, to send the gospel to the ends of the earth
- *Do you trust that the gospel will not fail?*
- *Do you long for the gospel to continue to spread?*