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## WARM UP

Can you remember a time when you felt like you were caught in a situation you couldn't get out of? How were you able to get out of it?

## WORD

Read [Acts 23:1-11](#)

After testifying about how Jesus transformed his life, Paul finds himself in a sticky situation where he is arrested as a follower of God. Although he is trapped and interrogated by the Pharisees and Sadducees, God positions Paul to see a way of escape from this dire situation.

## NOTES

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## 1 The Rear Guard

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*<sup>1</sup>And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day".*

**Acts 23:1** (ESV)

*<sup>8</sup>Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.*

**Isaiah 58:8** (ESV)

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The safest place you can be is in the presence and calling of God. Although Paul knew that things looked grim in his situation, there is an evident confidence that he had, knowing that God would protect him and deliver him out of danger. We, too, can have that same confidence. As long as we endeavour to remain in God's presence and power, He will keep us protected and delivered. Outside of His presence, there is fear, anxiety and oppression. In His presence, there is rest.

- Do you sense God's presence throughout the day? If so, how does He show up in your regular day? If not, would you like to have God meet you each day?

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## 2 The Sneak Out

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*<sup>10</sup>And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him into the barracks.*

*<sup>11</sup>The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you testified about the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."*

**Acts 23:10-11** (ESV)

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Paul was not able to be harmed by the Pharisees or Sadducees because he still had a mission assignment: to preach the Gospel in Rome. As long as God has a mission for you to complete in your life (and He does) and as long as you are in pursuit of fulfilling that purpose, you will be safe and protected by the Lord.

- Do you know what God has called you to do? What is the mission for your life? If you don't know your mission, would you like to?
- What are ways that you can stay in God's presence as you fulfil what He has called you to do?

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### PRAYER

- Ask God to show you His will for your life.
- Ask that God would be glorified in the execution of His will in your life.
- Pray for the protection of yourself and of those who you may know in ministry or in the mission field.