

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 23 23-35



For the Lord listens to the needy,
and his own who are imprisoned he does not despise.
Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and all that moves in them.
Psalm 69:35-36

Praising:

Alone with none but thee, my
God,
I journey on my way;
what need I fear when thou art
near,
O King of night and day?
More safe am I within my hand,
than if a host did round me stand.

Reading:

Acts 23:23-35
Paul is sent to Caesarea

Paul's trust in the tribune is well-placed as he acts immediately to subvert the murder plot by spiriting Paul away under the cover of night. Given the size of the military escort, Paul's escape cannot have gone completely unnoticed, although this does reveal the high store the Romans set in guaranteeing the physical safety of their citizens. Caesarea

is the seat of the Roman governor Felix, and in his letter of explanation the tribune effectively passes Paul's case up the line to be fully and formally considered. So far as the tribune is concerned, what specifically Paul is being accused of by the Jewish authorities remains a mystery. Once those accusing him have arrived, Felix grants Paul a hearing. Until they do so, Paul is kept under guard in the headquarters of King Herod.

Listening:

Praying:

We hold before you Lord those whose lives are in danger today

- those kidnapped or being held hostage or under false imprisonment
- those exposed to the threat of abuse, terrorism, civil unrest or military violence
- those embroiled in criminality or gangsterism who value life too cheaply

Father: thank you for the personal freedom and safety that makes life un-pressured. I think of those forced to look over their shoulder, especially as a consequence of following Christ. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 05 July 2016