

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 22 22-30



The Lord ransoms the life of his servants  
and will condemn none who seek refuge in him.  
Psalm 34:22

## **Praising:**

Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and  
hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and  
goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

## **Reading:**

Acts 22:22-30

Paul is bound and sent for  
flogging

As the temperature starts to rise  
again, in their default role as  
keeper of the peace and referee,  
the Roman authorities step in to  
put Paul beyond immediate  
physical danger. Their intention  
however is to beat a confession  
out of him. Yet Paul is ready and  
waiting with a declaration no one

is expecting. Paul is a Roman  
citizen. This means Paul has  
important legal rights and  
protections, especially since at  
this stage he has not actually  
been convicted of anything.  
Ironically the tribune himself had  
bought his Roman citizenship  
whereas it was part of Paul's  
birthright as a native of Tarsus.  
When it becomes clear that Paul  
should not have been bound,  
never mind undergo flogging, he  
is released without further delay.  
A meeting of the chief priests and  
Jewish council is called for the  
following day.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We thank you Lord for the  
freedoms we take for granted

- for a professional and  
accountable police force to  
protect our community
- for a fair and independent  
judiciary to uphold the rule of  
law and arbitrate disputes
- for the freedom as Christians  
to believe, to meet together  
and to share our faith

Father: I forget so quickly that I'm  
able to think and to speak, to  
come and to go, to earn and to  
own. Help me to remember that  
for many in the world these  
things are a pipe-dream. Amen

## **Doing:**