

# Acts 23:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

## Analysis

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**Paul the prisoner called me unto him**—Despite chains, Paul retained relational influence and strategic awareness. The young man was Paul's nephew (v. 16), showing Paul's family connections in Jerusalem. That Paul summoned him (προσκαλέω, proskaleō) indicates Paul had freedom to receive visitors even under custody. **Prayed me to bring this young man unto thee**—The verb erōtaō (asked/requested) shows Paul's courtesy. He didn't demand but requested, modeling respectful engagement with authority.

**Who hath something to say unto thee**—The centurion's willingness to escort the nephew to the tribune reveals Roman military's openness to information that might prevent bloodshed. Paul's strategic use of this opportunity shows wisdom: he could have relied solely on divine protection, but he utilized available means. God's providence worked through natural means—the nephew's discovery of the plot, the centurion's cooperation, and the tribune's protective response.

## Historical Context

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Paul's sister apparently lived in Jerusalem, perhaps with her son. That the nephew learned of the conspiracy suggests the conspirators discussed plans openly, confident in community support. Roman military procedures allowed prisoners to

receive visitors and send messages, especially those not yet convicted. This access proved crucial to Paul's survival.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do you balance trusting God's protection with using wisdom and available resources in threatening situations?
2. What does Paul's family connection in Jerusalem teach about maintaining relationships even when ministry takes you far from home?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ μὲν οὗν παραλαβὼν αὐτὸν ἀγαγεῖν πρὸς τὸν  
G3588 G3303 **So** **he took** **him** **and brought** **him to** G3588  
G3767 G3880 G846 G71 G4314

χιλίαρχον καὶ φησίν Ὁ δέσμιος Παῦλος  
the chief captain and said G3588 the prisoner Paul  
G5506 G2532 G5346 G1198 G3972

προσκαλεσάμενός με ἡρώτησεν τοῦτον τὸν  
called me unto him and prayed me this G3588  
G4341 G3165 G2065 G5126

νεανίαν ἀγαγεῖν πρὸς σέ ἔχοντά τι λαλῆσαι  
young man and brought him to thee who hath something to say  
G3494 G671 G4314 G4571 G2192 G5100 G2980

σοι  
unto thee  
G4671

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 3:1** (References Paul): For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

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