

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

ὁ	μὲν	οὖν	παραλαβὼν	αὐτὸν	ἀγαγεῖν	πρὸς	τὸν
G3588	G3303	So	he took	him	and brought	him to	G3588
		G3767	G3880	G846	G71	G4314	
χιλίαρχον	καὶ	φησὶν	Ὁ	δέσμιος	Παῦλος		
the chief captain	and	said	G3588	the prisoner	Paul		
G5506	G2532	G5346		G1198	G3972		
προσκαλεσάμενός	με	ἠρώτησεν	τοῦτον	τὸν			
called	me	unto him and prayed me	this				G3588
G4341	G3165	G2065	G5126				
νεανίαν	ἀγαγεῖν	πρὸς	σέ	ἔχοντά	τι	λαλῆσαί	
young man	and brought	him to	thee	who hath	something	to say	
G3494	G71	G4314	G4571	G2192	G5100	G2980	
σοι							
unto thee							
G4671							

Additional Cross-References

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

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