

# Acts 23:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

## Analysis

Paul's nephew reveals the conspiracy, stating **The Jews have agreed to desire thee**—using the Greek synethento (συνέθεντο), meaning 'they covenanted together,' implying a formal pact. The phrase **as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly** exposes the deceptive pretense of legal inquiry masking murderous intent. This echoes the Jewish leaders' earlier stratagems against Jesus (Mark 14:1). The nephew's timely intelligence demonstrates God's providence preserving Paul for his Roman witness (Acts 23:11)—divine protection through human agency.

## Historical Context

This occurred in AD 57-58 during Paul's imprisonment in the Antonia Fortress, Jerusalem. The Sanhedrin's willingness to use deceit reveals the depth of their hostility toward Paul, whom they viewed as an apostate undermining Judaism.

## Related Passages

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's providence work through ordinary circumstances and human decisions to protect His servants?
2. What does the Jewish leaders' deception reveal about religious zeal divorced from truth?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν δὲ ὅτι Οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι συνέθεντο τοῦ ἐρωτῆσαί σε  
**he said** **And** G3754 G3588 **The Jews** **have agreed** G3588 **to desire** **thee**  
G2036 G1161 G2453 G4934 G2065 G4571

ὅπως αὔριον εἰς τὸ συνέδριον καταγάγης τὸν  
**that** **to tomorrow** **into** G3588 **the council** **thou wouldest bring down** G3588  
G3704 G839 G1519 G4892 G2609

Παῦλον ὡς μέλλοντές τι ἀκριβέστερον  
**Paul** **as** **though they would** **somewhat** G199  
G3972 G5613 G3195 G5100

πυνθάνεσθαι περὶ αὐτοῦ  
**enquire** **of** **him**  
G4441 G4012 G846

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