

Sermon Notes

I. Introduction

- **Title: When God Calls You**
- **Passage: Acts 23:1-35**
- **Key Theme: Understanding and responding to God's call with faith and obedience.**

II. Key Themes and Discussions

A. God's Protection

- **Paul's Experience: Despite a plot to kill him, Paul is protected by Roman soldiers (Acts 23:12-24).**
- **Scriptural Assurance:**
 - **Deuteronomy 31:6 – “Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God goes with you.”**
 - **Psalms 34:7 – “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him.”**
- **Application: God shields believers when they follow His call, removing fear and uncertainty.**

B. God's Authority

- **Paul's Defense: Paul speaks under the authority of Christ, supported by Roman governance (Acts 23:25-30).**
- **Scriptural Insight:**
 - **Matthew 28:18 – “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”**
 - **Romans 13:1 – “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.”**
- **Application: Believers are empowered by God's authority, enabling them to act boldly.**

C. God's Conveyance (Provision)

- **Paul's Journey: Roman forces safely transport Paul to Caesarea (Acts 23:31-35).**
- **Scriptural Insight:**
 - **Exodus 6:6-8 – God promises to lead and redeem His people.**
 - **Numbers 23:19 – “Has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”**
- **Application: God provides everything needed to fulfill His call, including resources and direction.**

D. God's Audience

- **Broadening Paul's Impact: Opposition increases Paul's opportunities to preach, even to Roman officials.**
- **Scriptural Insight:**
 - **Acts 1:8 – “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth.”**
 - **2 Timothy 4:17 – “The Lord stood with me...that all the Gentiles might hear.”**
- **Application: God provides the right audience for His message through His servants.**

E. Facing Opposition

- **Paul's Accusers: Jewish leaders falsely accuse Paul, but God's purpose prevails (Acts 24:1-9).**
- **Encouragement: Isaiah 43:10 – “You are my witnesses...before me there was no God formed.”**
- **Application: Opposition is inevitable but serves to strengthen faith and further God's purposes.**

III. Conclusion

- **Reflection: What is God calling you to do? Are you willing to step out in faith?**
- **Encouragement: Trust in God's protection, authority, provision, and purpose. Do not fear opposition; Jesus is greater than any obstacle.**

Scriptural References

- **Acts 23:1-35**
- **Deuteronomy 31:6**
- **Matthew 28:18**
- **Acts 1:8**
- **Isaiah 43:10**