

Can't Stop the Sovereignty!

Text: Acts 23:12-35

February 7, 2026

Big Idea: God is sovereignly working, so trust Him in the trial.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

God is working, so you must trust Him to...

Point 1: PROTECT to fulfill His PURPOSE (vv. 12-22)

Question: Man's plans are no match for God's providence. Will you trust God's care for you?

Question #2

- a) **Rd vv. 12-22:** Based on what Paul was facing, what were his odds to live (on a human level)?
- b) Discuss what is happening in this text; and where God's quiet, sovereign hand is protectively guiding what is happening.
- c) What is the good for which God was ultimately working all these things towards?
- d) Spend time thinking about trials the Lord has sovereignly allowed you to go through (or are going through!). Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the sovereign hand of the Lord through that trial in using it for your good and His glory. Spend time sharing those with your group and praise the Lord together!

Question #3 Note: **Please use your fruit to root tool for this question.**

- a) **Rd Acts 20:24:** What are the three ways we see in this text, that instruct us on how we trust in God's sovereign care in our trials?
- b) Which of these ways is the most difficult for you? Why that one/those ones?
- c) What fruit comes forward when you try to do it your own way and not follow the Lord's way?
- d) What is it that you really want that leads you to reject God's way and pursue your own?
- e) What gospel treasure(s) are you not believing are truly yours, and it's leading you to grasp for the world treasure?
- f) Find a passage of Scripture that emphasizes that specific gospel treasure. Now pray for the gospel fruit in your life that the Holy Spirit will bring forth as you believe that truth and walk by faith.

God is working, so you must trust Him to...

Point 2: PROVIDE to fulfill His PROMISE (vv. 23-35)

Question: No matter the trial, what God says will come to pass. Will you trust in His provision?

Question #4

- a) **Rd vv. 23-35:** What is happening in this section of the text?
- b) Rd through this text as a group and discuss all the ways that God sovereignly provides for Paul to get him to Caesarea.
- c) How should reading this testimony, strengthen your faith in the Lord's sovereign provision to fulfill His Word and accomplish His purpose even in the state of affairs in our world today?
- d) Why is it easy to miss/overlook God's provision for us in trial as He quietly works?
- e) What trial are you facing that you need to trust in God's sovereign provision for you? How is He providing for you already in it? Ask some of your group members to speak into that situation to help you identify the ways.
- f) Spend time in prayer for one another for that trial and God's gracious provision to you in it.

Bonus Question! (This is optional, and can be for your personal study only!)

Time for some biblical theology....

Part 1: Start in Genesis and do a study on how God has been sovereignly working throughout the Old Testament in pointing to the coming of Jesus through the promises that He made from the beginning; and how He sovereignly overcome the opposition to it.

Part 2: Then show from the New Testament how God sovereignly accomplished His plan of redemption through the person and work of Jesus to fulfill those promises.

Summary: You can't stop the sovereignty!

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Acts 23:12-35...**

- a) ADORATION: Lord, You are the sovereign God who_____ .
- b) CONFESION: Lord, I repent of my unbelief in your_____ in my trial of_____ .
- c) THANKSGIVING: Lord, I thank you for your sovereign protection and provision in my life by_____ .
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord, I cast_____ on You; and even if_____ happens, help me to trust in You.

Memory Verse:

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” -Romans 8:28