

Sometimes

Acts 23:12-35

Sometimes..

Those who should be the good guys are really the bad guys.

Acts 23:12

The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. More than forty men were involved in this plot. They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here."

Notice here: The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.v 12

I wonder how hungry they got as their plan didn't work, I wonder if they kept their vow and starved to death?

But that isn't the main point here.

These guys are supposed to be the custodians of God's word, the ministers and educators in God's word but that doesn't come across here. What comes across is a bunch of guys who don't like something so they plan a way to get what they want. Even if it means killing someone.

Do they know better? Yes. Why then does it happen? Because people want what they want, people are so sure that their desires are the ones that need to be adhered to.

Hey it still happens. It has the potential to happen here because we have a bunch of people in the congregation that have differing opinions and each perceives themselves to be right.

This passage is a real warning to us.

Sometimes

It's family who have to stick up for you. V16-22

Notice who it is- Paul's nephew.

V16

But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

Yep our families stick up for us, but remember too that we as a church are seen as a family, God's family. So maybe part of the lesson is we need to be advocates for each other. Stick up for each other, yep.

But notice what Paul does. V17-21

Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him." So he took him to the commander.

The centurion said, "Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you."

The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, "What is it you want to tell me?"

He said: "Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him. Don't give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request."

In some ways what he does is to use the political system around him. He uses the situation, it shows a couple of things.

- A. His respect for that system
- B. The respect that those in the system has for him - they listened.

That is why we have systems and protocols and paper work and forms and risk assessments. So the system works for us, so the system works for God's people and God's kingdom.

Sometimes

The bad guys are actually the good guys

Acts 23:23-24

Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix."

Now the Romans are supposedly the bad guys, at least that is what the Jews thought. I mean their thought process was "what have the Romans done for us". Yet here we see the perceived bad guys looking after God's man.

MMM God works in funny ways.

What happens next is that the Commander write a letter to the Governor explaining the situation and sends Paul off. With a police escort.

Paul arrives. Is put under some sort of house arrest in the palace, which is kind of like being under house arrest at the Sydney Hilton.

And it is from there that Paul gets further opportunity to talk about Jesus.

In closing a couple of things.

- A. God cares for his people and He uses whom ever he wants to provide that care. Usually it is His people who care for others who are His people, but let's not limit God by assuming that is always the way.
- B. If God wants to find a way for you to share about Jesus, He will find a way.
- C. We need to apply some of these thoughts to our own Situations.
Are we one of the sometimes good guys or are we one of the sometimes bad guys?
Who would we be in this story?