



# TRANSFORMATION

JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS



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**Opportunities**  
ACTS 23:6-35 NIV

## Acts 23:6-35 NIV

<sup>6</sup> Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.” <sup>7</sup> When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. <sup>8</sup> (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

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## Acts 23:6-35 NIV

<sup>9</sup> There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. “We find nothing wrong with this man,” they said. “What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?” <sup>10</sup> The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

<sup>11</sup> The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

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# Acts 23:6-35 NIV

## The Plot to Kill Paul

<sup>12</sup> The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> More than forty men were involved in this plot. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.”

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<sup>16</sup> But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

<sup>17</sup> Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him." <sup>18</sup> So he took him to the commander.

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## Acts 23:6-35 NIV

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.”

<sup>19</sup> The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, “What is it you want to tell me?”

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## Acts 23:6-35 NIV

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.”

<sup>22</sup> The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: “Don’t tell anyone that you have reported this to me.”

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# Acts 23:6-35 NIV

## Paul Transferred to Caesarea

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”

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# Acts 23:6-35 NIV

<sup>25</sup> He wrote a letter as follows:

<sup>26</sup> *Claudius Lysias,*

*To His Excellency, Governor Felix:*

*Greetings.*

*<sup>27</sup> This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen. <sup>28</sup> I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin.*

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## Acts 23:6-35 NIV

*<sup>29</sup> I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. <sup>30</sup> When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him.*

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## Acts 23:6-35 NIV

<sup>31</sup> So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris. <sup>32</sup> The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. <sup>33</sup> When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him. <sup>34</sup> The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup> he said, “I will hear your case when your accusers get here.” Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod’s palace.

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# 1. Courage

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# 1. Courage

## a. Facing Risk

# 1. Courage

a. Facing Risk

i. Social

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# 1. Courage

- a. Facing Risk
  - i. Social
  - ii. Economic

# 1. Courage

- a. Facing Risk
  - i. Social
  - ii. Economic
  - iii. Physical

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# 1. Courage

- a. Facing Risk
  - i. Social
  - ii. Economic
  - iii. Physical
- b. The Right Risk

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# 1. Courage

- a. Facing Risk
  - i. Social
  - ii. Economic
  - iii. Physical
- b. The Right Risk
  - i. For Jesus

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- a. Facing Risk
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  - ii. Economic
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  - i. For Jesus
  - ii. For Others

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# 1. Courage

- a. Facing Risk
  - i. Social
  - ii. Economic
  - iii. Physical
- b. The Right Risk
  - i. For Jesus
  - ii. For Others
  - iii. For Good

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## 2. Opposition

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## 2. Opposition

### a. Reasons for Opposition

## 2. Opposition

- a. Reasons for Opposition
- b. Standing Firm

## 2. Opposition

- a. Reasons for Opposition
- b. Standing Firm
- c. Offence vs. Defence

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# 3. Obstacles

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# 3. Obstacles

## a. Barriers

# 3. Obstacles

## a. Barriers

### i. Cultural

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# 3. Obstacles

## a. Barriers

i. Cultural

ii. Philosophical

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# 3. Obstacles

## a. Barriers

- i. Cultural
- ii. Philosophical
- iii. Relational

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# 3. Obstacles

## a. Barriers

- i. Cultural
- ii. Philosophical
- iii. Relational

## b. Barricades

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# 3. Obstacles

## a. Barriers

- i. Cultural
- ii. Philosophical
- iii. Relational

## b. Barricades

- i. Internal

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# 3. Obstacles

## a. Barriers

- i. Cultural
- ii. Philosophical
- iii. Relational

## b. Barricades

- i. Internal
- ii. External

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# 4. Opportunities

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## a. The Greater Picture

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## 4. Opportunities

- a. The Greater Picture
- b. Eternal Focus

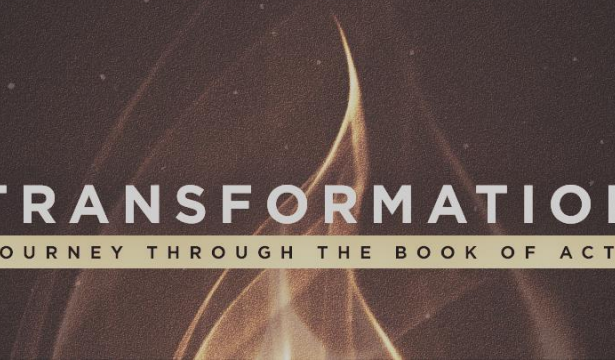
## 4. Opportunities

- a. The Greater Picture
- b. Eternal Focus
- c. Failure is an Option

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# Questions:



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1. Are there situations that God is calling you to be courageous?

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2. Are you facing opposition or obstacles to living out your faith?

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2. Are you facing opposition or obstacles to living out your faith?
  - a. Internal
  - b. External
3. What opportunities would lie ahead if the obstacles and opposition were removed?
4. How does this change my prayer about barriers in my faith and ministry?

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