

Greg Surratt

*But the Lord said to me, ‘Leave Jerusalem, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles!’ Acts 22:21 (NLT)*

*The crowd listened until Paul came to that word; then with one voice they shouted, “Away with such a fellow! Kill him! He isn’t fit to live!” They yelled, threw off their coats, and tossed handfuls of dust into the air. Acts 22:22–23 (NLT)*

*The commander brought Paul inside and ordered him lashed with whips to make him confess his crime. He wanted to find out why the crowd had become so furious.*

*As they tied Paul down to lash him, Paul said to the officer standing there, “Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been tried?”*

*The officer went to the commander and asked, “What are you doing? This man is a Roman citizen!”*

*So the commander went over and asked Paul, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”*

*“Yes, I certainly am,” Paul replied.*

*“I am, too,” the commander muttered, “and it cost me plenty!”*

*“But I am a citizen by birth!”*

*The soldiers who were about to interrogate Paul quickly withdrew when they heard he was a Roman citizen, and the commander was frightened because he had ordered him bound and whipped.*

*The next day the commander freed Paul from his chains and ordered the leading priests into session with the Jewish high council. He had Paul brought in before them to try to find out what the trouble was all about. Acts 22:24–30 (NLT)*

## How to cultivate a faith that can take a beating

### 1. Make sure you have \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

*I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ Acts 22:10 (NLT)*

### 2. Live your life in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus

### 3. See your circumstances in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus

- What did Paul do?

#### 1. He accepted that this situation was of \_\_\_\_\_

*The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. He delights in every detail of their lives. Psalm 37:23 (NLT)*

#### 2. He created an \_\_\_\_\_

*This suffering won’t last forever. It won’t be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will have you put together and on your feet for good. 1 Peter 5:10 (TMSG)*