

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program
Acts of the Apostle #8:
Paul's Arrest and Trial before the Council

ICSB: Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
 NJBC: New Jerome Biblical Commentary
 SBDC: Studium Biblicum Devotional
 Commentary
 SBCB: Studium Biblicum Chinese Bible
 CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church
 JR: J. Ratzinger: Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith

A	<u>Introduction of Related Scripture Passages</u>	Acts 20-23
B	<u>The Resurrection of Eutychus</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This text reveals that Christians have been gathering on Sunday, that is, “the first day of the week” since the time of Paul’s. The structure of these gatherings is similar to that of today’s mass, which begins with Liturgy of the Word and followed by Liturgy of the Eucharist = Jesus is present in the Church through the Word and Sacrament. Luke portrays this accident about the youth with a great sense of humour. The inappropriateness of the youth becomes an opportunity to God’s glory. It starts tragically but ends happily. “Paul ... bending over him” ⇒ Elijah and Elisha raising a dead child. 	Acts 20:7-12 Acts 20:7, ICSB, CCC1343, 1345, Lk 24:27-31, CCC 1347 SBDC 1Kings 17:21, 2Kings 4:34
C	<u>Paul speaks to the Ephesian Elders</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul disregards his own life in order to fulfill Christ’s mission. He deems everything as lost but puts Christ ahead of everything. This doesn’t mean that he has won Christ, but Christ has won over him. He seems to be a “debtor”, and under the urges of Christ’s love, his missionary life continues with great faithfulness. “... to shepherd the Church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son” ⇒ Jesus is God. “It is more blessed to give than to receive” – this teaching is not recorded in any of the Gospels ⇒ many teachings about Jesus and the truth are not recorded in Scripture but are passed down through Holy Traditions, preserved through the customs of the Apostles, helping the Church to correctly understand Jesus’ teachings and God’s revelation. Once again, this points out the error of “Sola Scriptura”. “I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ... Therefore, be alert ... support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Paul’s words of departure, indeed, come from his heart, no wonder they strike the deepest cord in the listeners’ hearts. 	Acts 20:17-38 Acts 20:24, SBDC Rm1:14 2Cor 5:14 Acts 20:28, Nab, Jn 1:1, Phil 2:9-11, 1Cor 16:22, Col 2:9, Ezek 34:11 Acts 20:35, ICSB, 2Tim 3:8, 1Cor 10:1-4 Acts 20:29-38
D	<u>Paul’s Arrest upon his return to Jerusalem</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite of the multiple revelations by the Holy Spirit that Paul will be imprisoned and persecuted in Jerusalem and the crowd’s attempt to stop him, he is determined to offer his life to spreading the Good News and proceeds to Jerusalem in peace. Knowing that his path is filled with danger, Paul persists in his mission. Life loses its value without Jesus because “living is Christ and dying is gain”. When Peter left Jerusalem, James became the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. (Acts 12:17) Luke does not mention any of the other Apostles; perhaps they have already departed from Jerusalem to spread the Good News. 	Acts 21 Acts 21: 1-14 SBDC Phil 1:21 Acts 21:18, ICSB

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council of Florence (1442): The early Church may follow the laws of Moses, including circumcision, but that cannot be interpreted as the requirement for salvation. According to Acts, Christians of Jewish descent can follow but the non-Jewish Christians are not required to do so. 	Acts 21:20-26
E	<p><u>Paul Addresses the people of Jerusalem</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Paul has been arrested, he has tried to defend himself four times. This chapter records his first defense. The other three include his defenses before Governor Felix (Acts 24:10-21), Felix's successor, Festus (Acts 25:8), and Agrippa (Acts 26: 1-23). 	Acts 22 ICSB
F	<p><u>Paul before the Council and later being sent to Felix the Governor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the divisions within the Council, Paul's trial ended up going nowhere. Note that the report of the Centurion is marked by dishonesty. We have seen similar situations in our workplaces. 	Acts 23 Acts 23:1-12 Acts 26:30
G	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>In this session, you have learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The structure and content of the Sunday Mass used by today's Church has already been in place and used by Christians during Paul's time. In all matters, one must imitate Paul who places Christ ahead of himself, even before his own life. After Paul has received God's grace, he is so moved by Jesus' love that he gives up his life in pursuit of the truth. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is true man and true God. The error of "Sola Scriptura" is shown once again. Paul journeys to Jerusalem despite of the inevitable danger that awaits him. This proves that Paul puts his teaching, "For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain" (Phil 1:21) into practice. Acts 21:18 proves that James became the Bishop of Jerusalem after Peter's departure. The Church does not require the non-Jewish Christians to obey the laws of Moses, with the exception of early Jewish Christians. 	B1 C1 C2 C3 D1 D2 D3