

# Unlikely Heroes of the Bible

(Acts 23:12-31)

- Introduction:
1. In the book of Zechariah and Haggai, we are reminded not to despise the “day of small things” (Zechariah 4:10; Haggai 2:1-9).
  2. Likewise, there are “bit players” in the Bible that cannot be overlooked.
  3. No man is an island unto himself.
  4. Ordinary people can touch the lives of people in extraordinary ways and of eternal consequence.
  5. In this series, I’d like to examine a few “bit players” that have all but been forgotten, but their faith made them heroes.
  6. The first character we want to take note of is Paul’s nephew.

## I. Background

- A. Paul had been arrested and had testified before the Sanhedrin (Acts 22-23).
- B. More than 40 men had taken an oath that they would not eat until they had killed Paul (Acts 23:12-14).
- C. These men schemed with the authorities to kill Paul (Acts 23:15).
- D. However, Paul’s nephew overheard the scheme and told Paul (Acts 23:16).
- E. Paul then had his nephew report what he heard to the commander (Acts 23:18-22).
- F. The commander then make preparations to save Paul’s life and keep him from being murdered (Acts 23:23-24).

## II. Lessons Learned

- A. Paul’s Nephew Took Actions That Were Risky.
  1. By telling what he knew, he could have been killed.
  2. He didn’t know who was and wasn’t in on the scheme to kill Paul.
  3. These leaders were corrupt (Acts 23:14-15; 25:1-3).
  4. Has our Christianity become boring?
    - a. Have we taken any risks?
    - b. Has it cost us anything to wear the name of Jesus?
    - c. Maybe that’s our problem...it’s too easy for us!
  5. Avoiding risk isn’t safe (Matthew 25:14-30).
- B. Paul’s Nephew Chose To Get Involved.
  1. He could have looked the other way.
  2. (2 Corinthians 4:13).
  3. (2 Kings 7:9).
  4. “You Never Mentioned Him To Me.”
  5. God loves “justice” (Matthew 23:23; Micah 6:8), therefore we cannot just “turn our heads.”

- Conclusion:
1. Let’s be emboldened by Paul’s nephew.
  2. Let’s not be afraid to take risks and get involved in the lives of others.
  3. Who knows but that your involvement might make an eternal difference.