

SCCC – TAKE COURAGE

S - Scriptures

“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.” Acts 23: 11

C – Considerations

Paul was facing a very difficult time in Jerusalem. His love for his people, took him back to his nation, bringing gifts to the poor, a powerful testimony to the church, and a message for unbelievers. After telling the disciples of what God had done through him in the nations, he was sharing his testimony to a hostile and skeptical crowd ready to murder him. Rejected by the mob and by the Jewish council, frustration and disappointment had filled his soul. In his loneliness and despair, Paul had a guest. It was not the angel Gabriel, nor the archangel Michael, but Jesus Himself. The Lord came and spoke to His servant, encouraging him that he had still much more to do. The chapter shows God’s providence to rescue His servant from assassins, as the apostle’s nephew heard about their plans, sharing it with Paul and the commander. That same night, he sent him out of Jerusalem.

C – Commitment

Jesus had spoken to His followers. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Even the greatest apostle was overwhelmed by trials. Sometimes, like the narrative above, we try to share our testimony and the gospel message to people that we love such as family members, old friends, and to fellow citizens, but they simply reject it. We feel discouraged, and frustrated, questioning what went wrong. The words of Jesus to Paul are the same to us. It is not the results of our efforts that count, but obedience. We should carry on the message to wherever the places the Lord tells us to go. To make my point clear, Scripture shows another incident with the apostle. Years before, Jesus appeared to Paul in the city of Corinth and told him, “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” Therefore, we should pray for those we have shared the message with, keep speaking to those who have not heard it, and always remembering the words of Jesus: “Take courage!

C – Call

My God, You know every heart including my own. Help me to have peace, not in my success, not in my works, but in Jesus. Help me to meditate in Your word and act upon it. I pray for the many like Paul, who are preaching Your word to the nations, that they will take courage and keep faithful to the assignment given them by the Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.