

Dec. 14-19

Monday, December 14, 2009 **Read: Acts 21:15-26** From the Lutheran Study Bible: *The church in Jerusalem rejoices at what God has done through Paul. The leaders ask him to dispel rumors among Jewish Christians about his ministry by taking part in an Old Testament purification ceremony.* **Prayer starter: Praise the Lord for those through whom He is working today – pastors, missionaries and other servants of the church.**

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 **Read: Acts 21:27-40** Paul's got trouble and from the same group that opposed him in Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Thessalonica and Berea. **Prayer starter: Do you know someone who suffers for the faith? Pray for that person today.**

Wednesday, December 16, 2009 **Read: Acts 22:1-16** In today's reading Paul provides a nice model for telling others about our life in Christ. The best approach is simply to tell truthfully what the Lord has done in our lives. **Prayer starter: Who can you invite to Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services? Ask the Lord for courage to make that invitation.**

Thursday, December 17, 2009 **Read: Acts 22:17-30** Paul plays his trump card in verse 25. By the way, flogging of a witness was considered the best, but most painful, way to get truthful answers from an individual. **Prayer starter: Thank God for His presence in your life – in both peaceful and troubled times.**

Friday, December 18, 2009 **Read: Acts 23:1-11** Paul's troubles would seem to be keeping him from doing ministry and serving the Lord. But read verse 11 again – what Paul had desired to do, he would finally have the chance. **Prayer starter: Praise the Lord for those times in your life when something meant for evil was turned into good through God's power and presence.**

Saturday, December 19, 2009 **Read: Acts 23:12-22** See verse 12 again: *The conspirators vowed they would be cursed by God if they did not fulfill their sinister mission* (from the Lutheran Study Bible). **Prayer starter: Pray that God will protect His church from those present day enemies of the cross of Christ Jesus.**