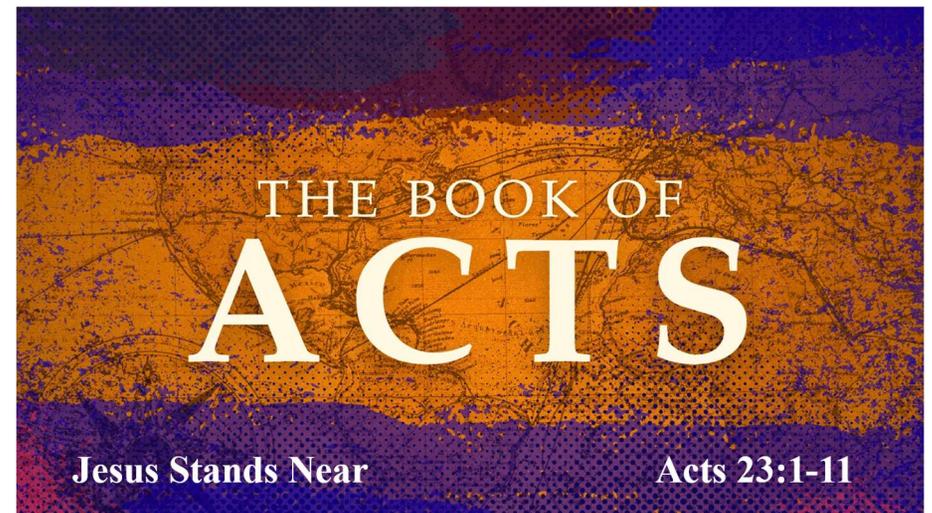


Application Questions

1. What trial or challenge are you currently facing where you need to trust that Jesus is near?
2. In what ways can you stand more boldly in your faith this week?
3. Who in your life may need someone to stand with them right now? How could you support them?

Sermon Discussion Points for



Calvary Chapel Groups

Sunday, March 8, 2026

CALVARY
— O X N A R D —

First

Read Acts 23:1-11 – As Paul faced an uncertain path ahead, including many who wanted to kill him, Jesus came to him and stood near. He reaffirmed Paul’s calling and His promise to be with him.

Vs. 1-5– Paul Faced a Serious Trial

1. What made Paul’s situation before the Sanhedrin such a serious and dangerous trial?
2. How did the high priest’s command to strike Paul show injustice in the trial?
3. What kinds of trials do people commonly face today (financial, health, relational, accusations, etc.)? How do these trials test our faith?
4. When facing trials, people often try to escape or avoid them. Why do you think that is?
5. What might it look like to face trials **in faith** instead of running from them?

Vs. 6-10 – Paul Stood Boldly in the Face of Danger

1. Why did Paul bring up the issue of the resurrection before the Sanhedrin?
2. How was Paul both **strategic** and **faithful** in what he said?

3. What are some situations today where Christians may be tempted to stay silent about their faith?
4. Bravery was described as “doing it scared.” How does that change the way you think about courage?
5. What practical things can help believers “stand fast in the faith” during difficult times?

Vs. 11 – Jesus Stands Near

1. What stands out to you about the moment when the Lord stood beside Paul?
2. Why do you think Jesus personally appeared to encourage Paul instead of sending an angel?
3. How would hearing Jesus say “Take courage” have impacted Paul in that moment?
4. How does God’s promise to never leave or forsake His people encourage you in difficult seasons?
5. Why is it important to also have other believers who will stand with us during hard times?

Continued on next page