

## *God's Purposes Stand: Proverbs 19:21*

1. In Acts 23:11, the Lord encouraged Paul that he would minister for Him in Rome as he had done in Jerusalem. But in the next two verses, Acts 23:12-13, more than forty Jews took a vow not to eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul. Despite their evil plan, God accomplished His purposes. Paul's life was preserved, and by the end of Acts, Paul had safely reached Rome and was ministering faithfully in that city. How can Biblical examples like this encourage us to continue serving God faithfully even when we run into difficult times? What examples have I seen in my own life of God accomplishing His purposes even when things did not go the way I wanted or expected?

2. Sometimes we struggle with trusting God's goodness and wisdom when things come into our lives that we don't like or don't understand. How can Job 38-41 teach us to realize that God's wisdom is greater than ours, and God understands life better than we do? How can this realization help us trust God's wisdom even when we don't understand things or don't like what is happening?

3. In Isaiah 7:9, the Lord exhorted Ahaz to be firm in his faith. At times we can struggle with believing in God's wisdom and goodness. In what areas of life do I struggle with my faith in God? What truths of God's Word can help me be firm in my faith in Him?