



The Olympics were wonderful. Only one thing spoiled them, a little. Some athletes cheated by taking drugs to improve their performance. They were found out. But what they did spoiled the fun for everyone, especially the athletes who should have won. In this Bible story some cheats try to kill Paul.

## BEATING THE CHEATS

Forty men had a secret meeting. They made a plot to kill Paul, even though he was a prisoner in the castle in Jerusalem.

One man whispered: "Let's tell the chief priests to ask the Roman Commander to bring Paul out of the prison to court for a trial. We will hide along the roadside and ambush them. We'll attack Paul's guards and kill him."

Another man replied, talking very quietly: "That's a great plan. Let's make a vow not to eat anything until Paul is dead."

They all promised to do this.

Forty people can't all keep a secret. One person who found out was Paul's young nephew. We don't know his name or his age, but he was probably a teenager.

What should he do? He knew his Uncle Paul had not done anything wrong and didn't deserve to be in prison.

But Paul's enemies were desperate. If they found out that Paul's nephew had spoiled their plot, they would kill him too.

The only way to go to see Paul was to climb all those steps up to the castle. Someone might see him and tell the 40 plotters.

But he knew what was right. The plotters were liars and cheats. So he risked his life and bravely climbed the steps, knocked on

the door and asked to visit his uncle.

Paul welcomed his nephew into his prison cell. He told his uncle about the plot to kill him.

Paul asked the officer in charge to take his nephew to the Commander. The Commander took his hand and led him to a place by themselves.

"What do you want to tell me?" he asked.

The nephew told him about the plot.

"Thank you for telling me," the Commander said. "Don't let anyone know that you told me this."

The Commander made a plan to protect Paul. He wrote a letter to the Roman Governor in Caesarea, the headquarters for the Roman army.

Then he ordered 70 soldiers on horses and 200 soldiers on foot with spears to be a body guard for Paul. Paul rode a horse protected by all these soldiers. They left Jerusalem and travelled by night.

If the 40 plotters were hiding along the road, they couldn't attack Paul because he had so many soldiers to guard him. This made them very angry and they had to break their vow.

The next day, when they got past the danger of attack, the 200 soldiers returned to Jerusalem. But

the 70 soldiers on horses took Paul safely all the way to Caesarea.

Paul's nephew was safe too. The plotters never found out who had told the Commander. God gave him the courage to save the life of Paul and beat the cheats.

**Read the story for yourself from the Bible in Acts 23: 12 – 35 .**



# BE A SPORTS REPORTER



Look up these verses in a Good News Bible to find out about two races in the Bible.  
Fill in the blanks to write your sports report.

*John 20:1 – 10.* P \_\_\_\_\_ and the o \_\_\_\_\_ disciple ran to the t \_\_\_\_\_ of J \_\_\_\_\_, when they heard that his body was not there. The o \_\_\_\_\_ disciple won the race. P \_\_\_\_\_ came second but went into the tomb first. They both saw that the body of J \_\_\_\_\_ was not there because J \_\_\_\_\_ had risen from death.

*1 Kings 18: 45 – 46.* There had been no rain for three years. The prophet E \_\_\_\_\_ prayed and it began to rain. King A \_\_\_\_\_ got into his c \_\_\_\_\_ and rode in it. The Lord gave E \_\_\_\_\_ the power to run ahead of the c \_\_\_\_\_ of A \_\_\_\_\_ all the way to J \_\_\_\_\_. So with God's help E \_\_\_\_\_ won the race and A \_\_\_\_\_ came second.

## VERSES TO LEARN

This time we have two short verses from the Good News Bible: Leviticus 19:11 and Jeremiah 7:5. They are in code. Can you read them?

**oD ton laets ro taehc ro eil.**

**eB raif ni ruoy tnemtaert fo eno rehtona.**

Look up the references to check your answer. Then learn the verses.

## YOUR OLYMPIC SCRAPBOOK

Did you get the story and pictures of Valerie Adams for your Olympic Scrapbook? She was awarded gold in Auckland for the women's shot put after the cheat who beat her in London was disqualified. This may be the last Olympic story. What a wonderful way to finish your Olympic Scrapbook! Well done.

## TALKING WITH THE COACH

Lord Jesus, please help me to  
always play fairly, even if I lose.

Amen.

## FIND OUT WHAT WAS STOLEN

Imagine you are an Olympic athlete and just before your race a cheat steals something important you need. (This really did happen!) Print this graphic. Use this code to colour it in and find out what was stolen.

**B = black; G = green; W = white (leave this blank)**

