



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

ACTS 21:27 – Acts 22

Paul's Defence #1

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

**Mob protest and arrest of Paul (21:27-36)** Where did the event take place? (27) Who was opposing Paul? What was Paul accused of? (28) Were the accusations true? How did the crowd react? (30/31) Was the arrest of Paul a blessing in disguise? Is the arrest consistent with prior revelation of the Holy Spirit? Should we expect false accusations and should we be afraid of false accusers in this world?

**Paul's Defence before Crowd (21:37- Acts 22)** Who is Paul? (3) How does Paul establish common ground with his audience and why is that important? (3-5) What are two critical questions in Paul's conversion experience? (6-16) Why is Paul's mission an important part of his defense? (14-15) What did the Lord tell Paul and why was Paul hesitant to accept it (17-21) What turns the crowd against Paul again? How does Paul escape scourging/flogging? What are three ways to acquire Roman citizenship? How did Paul get his?

**Personal Reflection:** *Roman Citizenship came with **great** privileges ... are we thankful for our heavenly citizenship that comes with **greater** privileges?*

# Paul's Three Missionary Journeys followed by Five Trials and Defense

**BEFORE CROWD (Acts 21, Acts 22)**

**Before Jewish Council in Jerusalem (Acts 23)**

**Before Felix in Caesarea (Acts 24)**

**Before Festus in Caesarea (Acts 25)**

**Before King Herod Agrippa of Caesarea (Acts 26)**

# Mob protest & arrest of Paul (21:27-36)

Where did the event take place? (27) Who was opposing Paul? What was Paul being accused of? (28) Was the accusation true? How did the crowd react? (30,31) Was the arrest of Paul a blessing in disguise? Is the arrest of Paul consistent with prior revelation of the Holy Spirit? Is this the first time Paul is troubled by his own Jewish community?

# Mob Protest and Arrest of Paul

Where did the event take place? (27)

in the Temple

Paul was visiting to complete the vow (26)

Who was opposing Paul? What was Paul being accused of? (28) Was the accusation true?

# Mob Protest and Arrest of Paul

Who was opposing Paul? What was Paul being accused of? (28) Was the accusation true?

Accused by Jewish people

## Two (false) Accusations:

**#1** Teaching everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place (6:13, Stephen)

**#2** Brought Greeks into the holy Temple (assumed Trophimus was brought by Paul)

# False accusations/testimony ... what does The Bible teach us?

## **We must not practice**

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor (Exodus 20:16, NIV)

## **... but we can expect (to be falsely accused in this world)**

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. (Matthew 5:11, NIV)

## **... but the Lord will protect us and give us justice**

no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD (Isaiah 54:17, NIV)

# Crowd reaction to false accusations

Power/danger of herd mentality

<sup>30</sup> The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. <sup>31</sup> While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar

# Arrest of Paul

- **Was the arrest of Paul a blessing in disguise?**
  - Yes, otherwise he may have been killed by the mob
  - Paul's previous two escapes due to Roman Justice intervention (Gallio in Corinth, 18:12, Town clerk in Ephesus, 19:37)
- **Is the arrest of Paul consistent with revelation of the Holy Spirit?**
  - Yes (as seen last week, Acts 19:21, 20:22, 21:4, 21:11)
  - Holy Spirit does not lie



# Paul's continuing conflicts with Jewish community

- 9:23 Jews took counsel to kill him
- 13:50 Jews raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them out of the city
- 14:2 Unbelieving Jews stirred up the gentiles
- 14:19 Certain Jews from Antioch stoned Paul, threw him out of the city, supposing he had been dead))
- 17:13 Jews of Thessalonica ... stirred up the people
- 18:12 Jews bring Paul before Gallio
- 20:3 Jews laid wait for him

**But Paul continues to reach out to Jews with the gospel message**

# Paul's Defence before Crowd (21:37- 22)

Who is Paul? (3) How does Paul establish common ground with his audience and why is that important? (3-5) What is inspiring about Paul's conversion experience? (6-16) Why is Paul's mission an important part of his defense? (14-15) What did the Lord tell Paul and why was Paul hesitant to accept it (17-21) What turns the crowd against Paul again? How does Paul escape scourging/flogging? What are three ways to acquire Roman citizenship? How did Paul get his?

# Introducing Paul

**ACTS 22:3** “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel (great Jewish teacher) and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today” also

**Philippians 3:5,6** <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

# Paul - building bridge with the crowd

## How does Paul establish common ground with his audience and why is that important?

- Establishes common ground by:
  - Use of Hebrew (Aramaic) language
  - I was zealous toward God, “as ye all are this day” (3)
  - Offers proof of his zeal (4,5)
- Common ground opens the heart of people to listen
- One way to be effective witnesses is to look for common ground in our conversation and then lead to Christ

# Paul's conversion

- Acts 9:3-9; Acts 22: 6-16; Acts 26:13-18

Paul saw Glorious light from Heaven @ noon time, saw Jesus, heard Jesus

- Immediate effect: Paul fell down, trembled and surprised, became blind
- Lord's introduction: I am Jesus of Nazareth (8) (Matthew 1:21)
- Lord's question: Why Persecutest thou me? (7) (not church)

# Paul's conversion: critical questions

## Paul's 2 critical questions (basis for conversion + calling):

### Who are you, Lord? (8)

- (we need to come to know the Lord before being saved)

### What shall I do? (10)

- (we should discover our divine calling after conversion)

✓ Do we know who Lord is? Do we know what He wants us to do?

# Paul's conversion

## Instructions to Paul:

- Arise and go to Damascus, for next steps (10)
- Paul healed by Annanias (13) Baptized (16) and given the mission (14,15)



- ✓ We see many fake conversions ... Paul's fruitful life following his conversion demonstrates that his conversion was genuine ... "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16-20)

# Paul's mission & its significance for defence

<sup>14</sup> And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. <sup>15</sup> For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

- Mission was given by God (Jewish people also believed in God)  
Mission was universal ... to “all men”
- Opposing Paul's mission implies rejecting God's mission



# Paul's vision in Jerusalem

- Most likely refers to Paul's first visit (Acts 9:26)
- **Paul's vision:**
  - Lord tells him to leave Jerusalem as he will not be received by Jews (18)
    - Paul argues that he is a 'good fit' for Jewish crowd
  - Lord repeats his message to leave Jerusalem and minister to gentiles (21)
- ✓ We should let the Lord assess our suitability for ministry assignment ... let us not assume a ministry for ourselves (or delegate to others) based on our natural thinking. Easy to make mistakes in ministry when we are guided by flesh, selfish motives, and self-confidence.

# Crowd reaction

- Crowd upset by his mission focus on gentiles

“away with such a fellow from the earth; for it is not fit that he should live” (Acts 21:36-away with him)

Jesus faced similar reaction, “away with him, away with him, crucify him, John 19:15)

**Paul's second rescue:** saved from mob attack by being arrested by Chief captain (24) (21:33)

# Paul's arrest and release

- Chief captain commanded that Paul be brought into castle (24) and be examined by scourging or flogging (24)
- Paul reveals his identity before he is flogged (In Philippi, does not reveal till later, 16:37)
- After finding out he was Roman (27/28), he was afraid to have bound him ... released him to council (30) leading to Paul's **defence #2** in Acts 23

# Path to Roman Citizenship

- by birth (Paul's father was Roman citizen)
- by reward (for good service)
- by paying a huge price

# Our Heavenly Citizenship (received for free at the cross)

**Philippians 3:18-21 (NIV)** For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

# Personal Reflection

*Roman Citizenship came with **great** privileges ... are we thankful for our heavenly citizenship that comes with **greater** privileges, or are we satisfied with just a US passport?*

End of  
Life  
Mission  
?





# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

ACTS 21:27 – Acts 22

Paul's Defence #1

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

**Mob protest and arrest of Paul (21:27-36)** Where did the event take place? (27) Who was opposing Paul? What was Paul accused of? (28) Were the accusations true? How did the crowd react? (30/31) Was the arrest of Paul a blessing in disguise? Is the arrest consistent with prior revelation of the Holy Spirit? Should we expect false accusations and should we be afraid of false accusers in this world?

**Paul's Defence before Crowd (21:37- Acts 22)** Who is Paul? (3) How does Paul establish common ground with his audience and why is that important? (3-5) What are two critical questions in Paul's conversion experience? (6-16) Why is Paul's mission an important part of his defense? (14-15) What did the Lord tell Paul and why was Paul hesitant to accept it (17-21) What turns the crowd against Paul again? How does Paul escape scourging/flogging? What are three ways to acquire Roman citizenship? How did Paul get his?

**Personal Reflection:** *Roman Citizenship came with **great** privileges ... are we thankful for our heavenly citizenship that comes with **greater** privileges?*