

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
Acts of The Apostles – Chapters 21 & 22
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Key Phrase: Misleading, Mistunderstanding and Fear

I. Paul returns to Jerusalem

Acts 21:15 (KJV) *And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem.*

Acts 20:4 (KJV) *And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.*

Acts 21:16 (KJV) *There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.*

A. Jerusalem elders received Paul's testimony and tribute.

Acts 21:17-19 (KJV) *And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.*

B. Jerusalem elders distracted from the real mission.

Acts 21:20 (KJV) *And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:*

C. Jerusalem elders misunderstood the message.

Acts 21:21-25 (KJV) *And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; ...*

D. Paul follows the guidance of the elders.

Acts 21:26 (KJV) *Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.*

II. Paul is apprehended and falsely accused.

Acts 21:27-29 (KJV) *And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)*

A. Misleading information leads to missteps in judgment and civility.

Acts 21:30-32 (KJV) *And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut. And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.*

B. Don't be surprised, when confused people behave chaotically. Jan 6.

Acts 21:33-35 (KJV) *Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done. And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle. And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.*

Acts 21:36 (KJV) *For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.*

III. Paul tries to defend himself.

A. From Acts 22:1-21 Paul addresses the mob to explain himself.

B. His explanation falls on deaf ears.

Acts 22:22-23 (KJV) *And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,*

C. Paul leverages his national civil rights.

Acts 22:24-30 (KJV) *The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?*

26 When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.

28 And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born. Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

30 On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from his bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.

Next Week Read Chapter Acts 23

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS - Defense of the Faith (Apologetics)