

Acts 21.27 – 22.29

Apostle under Arrest

End 3<sup>rd</sup> M Journey > Ap/Gentiles landed Capital JEWISH Nation

Paul just circled Eastern Mediterranean > Preaching KEY Cities

Jews & Gentiles trusted Risen Jesus > Planted Strong CHURCHES

Paul & Team Gentile Church leaders arrived Jerusalem w GIFTS

Love Offering > Jews trusting in Risen Jesus as Messiah and Lord

21.17 ...We came to Jerus., (Jewish Xtian) brothers received us gladly. 18 Paul met James (1/2 Bro Jesus, Ldr) & elders, Semi-FORMAL Mtg Nazarene Sanhedrin 19 ...what God done among Gentiles thru ministry 20...they glorified God / Greater Concern: 1000's Jews who've believed!! Jewish Ldrs Concerned > Paul's Jewishness Soft & Wobbly

v 23 Do what we tell you. We have 4 men under vow...take them ...purify self along w them & pay their expenses...shave heads...

### 1. Confusion

v. 31 "all Jerusalem was in confusion"

v. 27 "Jews from Asia, seeing him in temple, stirred up whole crowd"

Asian JEWS – ie. Turkiye – Instigators of VIOLENCE / DANGER!

ENEMIES of Paul > Hurl Half-Truths, Lies, Exaggerations

v. 28 "man teaching against the people the law and the temple"

No One was More Loyal to Law & Temple > SAUL the Pharisee

Risen Jesus taught His Last-Born Apostle: Sonrise eclipsed Symbols

LAW cannot offer Salvation/ TEMPLE Sacrifices fulfilled in Jesus

Good News – Jesus fulfilled LAW / Offered Full/Final SACRIFICE

v. 29 supposed he brought Ephesian into the Temple

False Accusation > Paul NOT bring Gentile into Temple Courts

v. 30 "all the city was stirred up, people ran together"

v. 34 "some shouting one thing, some another"

NO CONSENSUS of Crowd > WHO is It? WHAT did he do?

v. 37 “Do you know Greek? Are you not the Egyptian...?”

v. 38 “Egyptian stirred up a revolt...4000 men > THREE yrs Earlier

Josephus: “he brought them to the Mount of Olives – promising that at his command the walls of the city would fall flat – to capture Romans > Romans came out of Walls & KILLED Many!

LISTEN Political Speech > Reporter: Nothing like what I HEARD

Reporters INTERVIEW Students Protestors – Cannot Explain WHAT

Each Grp Needs Dictionary: Rights, Justice, Truth, Love > WOMAN!

## 2. Courage

Paul Entered Fray & Do Hard Thing > Offered Life Jews & Gentiles

v. 30 “they seized Paul & dragged him out of temple” > TO Kill

Gentile – they THOT – Enter Court of Jews CAPITAL Offense

OUT Inner Court > Murder in Outer Court Less Serious Violation

Fortunately > Roman Garrison quartered beside TEMPLE

v. 31 TRIBUNE quickly Called / name Claudius Lysias (23.26)

v. 32 Wild Crowd SAW Soldiers > Stopped Beating PAUL

v. 33 Commander Pleased Crowd: Paul BOUND w TWO Chains

34,35 Ordered Paul into Barracks > No Easy Maneuver VIOLENT!

v. 36 “Away with him!” – 30 yrs EARLY People of Jerusalem said...

“Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas” Lk 23.18 - SAUL?

Despite HEARING DEADLY words “Away with him!”

v. 39 Paul Bravely ASKS Permission to SPEAK to Crowds....

If ME I would ask Tribune take ME to Safety of the Barracks!!

Paul fully EXPECTS Ministry will be Advanced thru SUFFERING

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him”  
Philippians 1.29

FAREWELL to Elders of Ephesian church: “now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me” Acts 20.22,23

Paul IDENTIFIED w Crazy Religious People who wanted to Kill Others  
 HE had been a Crazy Religious Person who DID Kill Followers of Jesus  
 Thot serving God by Killing Unbelievers/ Zeal 4 God of their Imagination  
 Paul came to Understand > Murder, Hatred, Self-serving > CONFUSION!  
 God interested in Conversion, Not Killing / Deliverance not Destruction

Following JESUS w/out Compromise is NOT Easy

Want BLESSINGS – Repentance, Sacrifice, Obedience Not as POPULAR

Glad for God ride along as Passenger – Not take Steering Wheel

Paul makes NO Attempt ESCAPE > Waits Patiently Sovereign GOD

Courageously accepts Unjust Suffering > Follows Footsteps Jesus

### 3. Conviction

21.37 ON – “Paul the PRISONER” until the End of Book of ACTS

Paul the Prisoner ALWAYS Paul the Preacher > Courage, Conviction

Fulfills Jesus PLAN: Witness Jerus, Judea, Samaria, Ends of Earth

Carries witness of JESUS “in chains” to Ends of Earth – ROME

Ch 22 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 of Paul’s ‘apologies’ in Final Chapters of Acts

Apologetics = DEFENSE of Faith > v. 1 “hear the APOLOGIA I make”

“brothers and fathers” Kind Words for men trying to KILL HIM!

v. 2 QUIET when Heard Speak ARAMAIC > Hebrew for Commoners

3 Point OUTLINE:

1) I WAS where YOU Now Are > 7 Particulars of Paul’s Life vs. 3-5

“I am a JEW...Born TARSUS...raised Jerusalem...Student GAMALIEL

Zealous for GOD...Persecuted WAY...LETTERS to Damascus: Trouble!

2) I was CALLED by God vs. 6-14 specific TIME & PLACE

Saul the Pharisee going to Kill followers of WAY in Damascus

HIM who IS the Way STOOD in his WAY

Paul thot Following the Light > BLINDED by LIGHT of True GOD

“you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness” Deut 28.29

Only God in HEAVEN can OUTSHINE the Sun He has MADE

Homies SAW Light – NOT HEAR Voice – Only Paul called APOSTLE

NOT in Conflict w Hebrew Scripture or the Hope of Israel...

v. 14 HE said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth’

John Calvin: “As Paul was puffed up with pharisaic pride it was fitting for him to be thrown to the ground, deflated, so he might hear Christ’s voice”

2 pts Paul’s 3 pt Sermon > Crowd Quiet, Listening, Thinking: JESUS OK!

POWER of Testimony – Hard to REFUTE Experience of Another

LUKE Story of Early Church – Limited Parchment – 28 Chapters

Records Paul’s Testimony 3 X’s – chs 9, 22, 26

Society talks of MY Truth – Looking for REALITY > TRUTH

Not Wrong to call it MY Truth if it is God’s Truth: “MY Gospel”

“Paul: “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel”  
2 Timothy 2.8

3<sup>rd</sup> Pt of Paul’s Sermon > Gets into their GRILL > I was called to Nations

v. 17 LIKE THEM “I was praying in the TEMPLE” - LORD Jesus There

v. 21 Warm Fuzzy Fellowship OVER “Go far away to GENTILES!”

v. 22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.” > Not just Reject IDEAS > Deny RIGHT to EXIST!

Must have been NO LOSE STONES for them to PICK Up and THROW!

Took Paul back to Barracks to Uncover Truth FLAGELLATIO

Whip studded w Metal and Bone to RIP Flesh > Many DIED from This

After Such a Whipping a Person was Crippled for LIFE

#### 4. Citizenship

v. 25 Just as they stretched PAUL out for Whipping, he asked Question...

“Is it lawful for you to flog...a Roman citizen & uncondemned?” 5-10%!

Cicero: “To bind a Roman citizen is a crime, to flog him an abomination”

Commander could be Imprisoned / Executed for Abusing Citizen’s Rights

Probably HARD to Believe Rough-looking, Beat-up Paul was CITIZEN!

How’d you MANAGE that? I PAID big BRIBE for My Citizenship!

Possibly Paul’s Father awarded Citizenship for SERVICE to ROME

Only can SPECULATE HOW > Gift that Paul was BORN a Citizen!

Paul uses SHELTER of IMPERIAL Roman LAW

Roads – Postal – Magistrates – Lingua Franca – Currency – Open Doors

Luke > Xtianity NOT pose Any THREAT to PEACE of Rome

Gospel Opportunity > ROMAN Empire > used by God

Enables Freedoms > Protection for HIM and HIS Followers

Be WARNED > Roman Empire MURDERED Jesus, Paul, Apostles!

God given All His Children Providential Protection and Opportunities

USA Passport holders can ENTER 114 Countries

Framers of Constitution – Freedom of Religion – NOT Forced, Choose

Atheist – Theist – Church Goer – Satan Worshipper > You’re Right

NOT Freedom FROM Religion > Cannot BLOCK God Out of Public Life

Happy Lawsuit: DOE refuses Xtians Public School facilities After School

Like PAUL we should USE Rights to Make Christ KNOWN

Last 25 yrs Communist Dictators > Humbled by Zeal of National Xtians

Nobody in KZ or China asked Me if Mission Trip SAFE! God’s Will??

Many say “God was with Donald Trump last Saturday in Butler, PA”

God Omnipresent – Omniscient – Immutable – Eternal – Faithful

God LOVES All People > Especially CHILDREN by Faith in Lord Jesus

Danger make Trump – or ANY MAN – Special Vessel Divine Blessing?

Xtian Man saved Family in Butler, PA by DYING – Less Impt to God??

God thru Moses to ALL Israel: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31. 6

Citizenship with ETERNAL Benefits / Universal Connections:

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3.20)

### **Congregational Prayer – Psalm 25**

In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

### **Entrust the Lord with your Sins, your Hopes, your Future...**

For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. Who are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land. The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me! Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, LORD, is in you. Amen and Amen.