

ACTS
The Injustice of Unjust People
Acts 21:26-40
Midweek
November 18, 2020

Paul's Arrest

Acts 21:26-28 (NLT)

26 So Paul went to the Temple the next day with the other men. They had already started the purification ritual, so he publicly announced the date when their vows would end and sacrifices would be offered for each of them. 27 The seven days were almost ended when some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul in the Temple and roused a mob against him. They grabbed him, 28 yelling, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who preaches against our people everywhere and tells everybody to disobey the Jewish laws. He speaks against the Temple—and even defiles this holy place by bringing in Gentiles."

Why Did Paul Agree to This Plan?

- (1) Sensitivity: Paul was respectful to the customs of his target group as a faithful missionary.
- (2) Consideration: Paul was acting in consideration of the cultural customs as a faithful missionary.
- (3) Promote Unity: Paul restricted his personal freedom in Christ for others.

PRINCIPLE: THE GODLESS HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE NUMBERS IN THIS PRESENT FALLEN WORLD OF OURS.

The Public Relations Strategy Backfires

Acts 21:29-32 (NLT)

29 (For earlier that day they had seen him in the city with Trophimus, a Gentile from Ephesus, and they assumed Paul had taken him into the Temple.) 30 The whole city was rocked by these accusations, and a great riot followed. Paul was grabbed and dragged out of the Temple, and immediately the gates were closed behind him. 31 As they were trying to kill him, word reached the commander of the Roman regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 He immediately called out his soldiers and officers and ran down among the crowd. When the mob saw the commander and the troops coming, they stopped beating Paul.

Paul the Prisoner

Acts 21:33-40 (NLT)

33 Then the commander arrested him and ordered him bound with two chains. He asked the crowd who he was and what he had done. 34 Some shouted one thing and some another. Since he couldn't find out the truth in all the uproar and confusion, he ordered that Paul be taken to the fortress. 35 As Paul reached the stairs, the mob grew so violent the soldiers had to lift him to their shoulders to protect him. 36 And the crowd followed behind, shouting, "Kill him, kill him!" 37 As Paul was about to be taken inside, he said to the commander, "May I have a word with you?" "Do you know Greek?" the commander asked, surprised. 38 "Aren't you the Egyptian who led a rebellion some time ago and took 4,000 members of the Assassins out into the desert?" 39 "No," Paul replied, "I am a Jew and a citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia, which is an important city. Please, let me talk to these people." 40 The commander agreed, so Paul stood on the stairs and motioned to the people to be quiet. Soon a deep silence enveloped the crowd, and he addressed them in their own language, Aramaic.

PRINCIPLE: GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE WILL BE FULFILLED, MANY TIMES, NOT THE WAY WE ENVISIONED IT!

PRINCIPLE: YOU WILL GIVE VOICE TO WHAT YOU VALUE,
FOLLOWED BY ACTION AROUND YOUR CONVICTIONS.

Paul Valued the Gospel More Than His Own Life

Acts 20:1 (NLT)

1 When the uproar was over, Paul sent for the believers and encouraged them. Then he said good-bye and left for Macedonia.

PRINCIPLE: THE MOB TODAY DOESN'T VALUE THE TRUTH —
ONLY THEIR IDOLATROUS BELIEFS!