

Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)
Bible Study Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#
Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 6:30-7:30 PM

Acts 21:27-40 to Act 22:1-29

Paul is treated harshly in Jerusalem. There are Jewish men who based on assumptions believe Paul defiled the temple by having a Gentile enter the building. The people stirring up the crowd acted on a belief that they could not confirm. They did not ask Paul they just let hatred and anger lead their actions. Paul's status as a Roman citizen provides certain rights. He does not use those rights until he is about to be flogged.

Acts 21:27-30

Based on anger and likely misinformation the people drag Paul out of the temple. The doors close and the people began to beat Paul in an attempt to kill him.

How angry would people need to be to drag someone out of a holy place? Why would this even be considered as a reasonable action for this crowd?

Acts 21:31-36

The confusion and misinformation in the crowd was evident from the different statements given as to why the crowd was beating Paul. The Roman tribune charged with keeping order cannot let the beating continue but he needed to know if Paul committed a crime. If Paul was guilty of a crime the tribune must punish Paul. Paul was rescued from the people but he must face Roman authority.

What are comparable events in modern times when crowds became unreasonable and beat innocent people?

Acts 21:37-40

Paul asks to speak to the tribune. He speaks in Greek to the tribune and affirms that he is not the Egyptian stirring up trouble in Jerusalem. The tribune grants Paul's request to address the crowd. Paul then speaks to the crowd in their native language.

Why would the tribune allow Paul to speak to the crowd?

Acts 22:1-5

Paul addressed the crowd in Hebrew. He gave the crowd details about his life and his training. Mentioning the name of Gamaliel was significant. Many in the crowd likely had heard of Gamaliel and knew the importance of Paul learning from him. Paul also told the crowd about his background in persecuting followers of Jesus

What is the importance of presenting facts about where we studied and acknowledging events from our past?

Acts 22:-6-21

Paul tells the crowd about his conversion. This was a significant event for Paul and by telling the crowd he makes a connection with the crowd. Telling his personal experience allows Paul to preach salvation to the Hebrew crowd even though he explained he was sent to convert Gentiles.

Why is connecting on a personal level important in evangelism?

Acts 22:22-29

As soon as Paul offers salvation to the crowd they turn on him again and want him killed. Paul is about to be flogged but the centurion stops and informs the tribune that Paul is a citizen. They thought that Paul purchased

his status and are stunned that Paul was born a citizen. Flogging Paul without a trial or indication of wrongdoing was not legal and put all of those about to flog him in jeopardy.

Discuss the status of Paul's rights as a citizen of Rome.
