

Acts 21:27-39 **Paul arrested in Jerusalem – asked to speak to the people**

Falsely accused of defiling the Temple

27 And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, 28 crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." 29 (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) 30 And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut.

Rescued from the lynch mob by the Roman Commander and his soldiers

31 Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. 33 Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done. 34 And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another. So when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks. 35 When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. 36 For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!"

Paul requested permission to speak to the people

37 Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I speak to you?" He replied, "Can you speak Greek? 38 Are you not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?" 39 But Paul said, "I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Falsely accused of defiling the Temple

✚ 27 And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, 28 crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." 29 (*For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.*) 30 And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut.

- ✧ At the end of the seven days of purification with the four who were under a vow, Paul went into the Temple to conclude the process of purification. [Acts 21:26]
- ✧ Jews who had opposed Paul's ministry in Asia were in the Temple. [Acts 19:9, 21:27]
- ✧ When they saw Paul in the Temple after his purification, they stirred up the crowd by falsely accusing Paul of defiling the Temple by bringing Gentiles into it.
 - ✧ They had seen Paul in the city with Trophimus the Ephesian, and assumed that Paul had taken him into the Temple.

- ✧ Human nature is revealed here; when people are opposed to another because they disagree with his message, they imagine all manner of evil against their perceived opponent and use their imagined concept to turn the crowd against him.
- ✧ The crowd responded out of emotion for the Temple, being swayed by the Jews from Asia, they dragged Paul out of the Temple and shut the doors.

Rescued from the lynch mob by the Roman Commander and his soldiers

✧ **Now as they were seeking to kill him**, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done. And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another. So when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks. When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!" [\[Acts 21:31-36\]](#)

- ✧ This was a violent assault against Paul, because they were trying to kill him. [\[Acts 21:31\]](#)
- ✧ The Roman commander of the garrison at Jerusalem heard of the commotion and brought a large military force to investigate the matter. [\[Acts 21:31-32\]](#)
- ✧ When the lynch mob saw the soldiers coming they stopped beating Paul. [\[Acts 21:32\]](#)
- ✧ The commander saw that the uproar was centered against Paul, so he had Paul bound with two chains, and asked who he was and what he had done.
- ✧ The multitude was in confusion not knowing the truth but imagining all sorts of things and did not agree, as some said one thing and others another.
- ✧ Since the truth was not clear, and the people were in a tumult, the commander gave orders to take Paul into the barracks.
- ✧ Because of the violent press of the crowd, they had to carry Paul to the stairs.
- ✧ The people were still demanding his death, saying, "Away with him!"

Paul requested permission to speak to the people

✧ Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I speak to you?" He replied, "Can you speak Greek? Are you not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?" But Paul said, "I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people." [\[Acts 21:37-39\]](#)

- ✧ Before entering the barracks, Paul asked the commander if he could speak to him.
- ✧ The commander was surprised that Paul could speak Greek, because he had been under the impression that Paul was the notorious Egyptian who had previously stirred up a rebellion.
- ✧ Paul identified himself as a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of a major Roman city.
- ✧ Paul desired to speak to the people.