

Parson to Person ACTS 21 (PART 2) WITH ACTS 22

“Now 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, 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.’ (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) 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.

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!’ 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.’

So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying, ‘Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now. And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent’ (Acts 21:27–Acts 22:2 NKJV).

Once Paul made it to Jerusalem, he, as predicted, was promptly arrested.

The Jews in Jerusalem stirred up the massive crowd of those who had come to town for Pentecost by *falsely* accusing Paul of preaching against Moses, forbidding the Jews to circumcise their sons, to reject the customs they had been taught in the Law, and of bringing a Gentile into the Temple.

Although there was no truth to the accusations, the accusations themselves were enough! However, once Paul had been severely beaten by the Jews, and then arrested by the Romans, he would finally have the opportunity to do what he had long intended: share his story and preach the Gospel in Jerusalem.

As it turns out this was his last opportunity to minister in Jerusalem as this moment in history is the beginning of the climactic storyline of Paul in Acts.

From Jerusalem, Paul would remain under arrest. However, he would nonetheless be given the opportunity to speak to leaders—both Jew and Gentile, until finally appealing to Caesar and then being taken to Rome.

Jesus (whether endorsing Paul’s presence in Jerusalem or not) told him, *“Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome’ ” (Acts 23:11 NKJV).*

From Rome, Paul would continue to minister while under the bondage of imprisonment and house arrest. He spoke to many and wrote the epistles to Ephesus, Philippi, Colossi, Philemon, and some suggest the second letter to Timothy.

However, it all plays out in your mind, we can see that God used Paul powerfully: he impacted the world with the Gospel we believe today.

I thank God for Paul and his passion for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gospel of Grace, and for the people who have and will respond to the truth he proclaimed.

I love you all, Pastor Paul