

## **Paul is Bound and Taken into Custody**

Text: Acts 21:31-36

### **Introduction:**

In an attempt to appease the Jewish believers in Jerusalem, who had believed that Paul was teaching the Jews to disregard the law of Moses, Paul absorbed the costs of the Nazarite vows taken by four individuals. Coming to the end of the purification period, just as he was preparing to cover the expenses, a group of Jews from Asia Minor (more than likely, Ephesus) had spotted Paul at the temple and thrust false accusations against him, stating that he was not only teaching against Moses, but also bringing Gentiles into the temple. And so, they apprehended him, dragged him out of the temple and began to beat him, with the intention of killing him.

An uproar ensued and word quickly came back to the commander of the garrison, who then came with soldiers and centurions to quell the uproar. This morning, we continue on then, where we left off last time, as the soldiers arrive upon the scene of Paul being beaten by the Jewish crowd.

### **I. Paul is Bound and Taken into Custody**

"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." (vs. 31-34).

Question #1: What happened when the commander and the soldiers first arrived? Why did the Jews respond in this way? What does this tell us about the legality of the situation?

Question #2: What did the commander then do? Comment on this. [See also 22:29] Comment on the providence of God here.

Question #3: What prophecy was fulfilled here? [Acts 21:11]. Comment on the way in which this prophecy was fulfilled. What does this tell us about the nature of prophetic fulfillment? [Not always wholly literal; however, the sense is there; the Scriptures use of round numbers and summations of historical events...etc]

Question #4: Comment on the responses of the multitude to the commander's question. What again does this tell us?

Question #5: Comment on the commander's actions following this, and the overall treatment of Paul here. [Note as well, God's sovereignty in securing a passage for Paul to go to Rome]

"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!" (vs. 35-36).

Question #6: What happened as the soldiers sought to bring Paul to the barracks? What did the multitude mean by the words, "Away with him?" [Acts 22:22]. Where have we heard this before? [Luke 23:18; John 19:15]