

# Paul's Arrest

Acts 21:27-39

## Introduction

### A Cautionary Tale

"New Report Details the Influence of Christian Nationalism on the Insurrection" (Jack Jenkins; article).

**Those who conflate religion with public aggression and riotous behavior do harm to Christianity.**

I. The Accusation (vv27-29); II. The Assault (vv30-36); III. The Ask (vv37-39)

### I. The Accusation (vv27-29)

**v27** *When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,*

"*Jews from Asia*" The Jews of the Dispersion

Acts 20:18-19

"*stirred up*" = 'confound, confuse, be in an uproar.'

"*laid hands on*" 'beat into'

#### **v28**

"*crying out*" 'scream, shriek.'

"For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being" Romans 7:22

The true hater of the law is the one who rejects all the evidence in the OT that prove Jesus is the Messiah!

"*he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.*"

Acts 6:11-13

**v29** *For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.*

### II. The Assault (vv30-32)

**v30 v31 v32**

"*the gates were shut*"

### **III. The Assist (vv33-36)**

*"tribune"* Luke uses "chiliarch," ('leader of one thousand'): Claudius Lysias (Acts 23:26).

#### **v33**

*"bound with two chains"* fulfilling the prediction of the prophet Agabus (21:11).

#### **v34**

As with most mob scenes, this one is marked by chaos and confusion.

The riot at Ephesus: Acts 19:32

#### **v35 v36**

This chant did not mean that they wanted him taken away. It meant that they wanted him killed.

Luke 23:18

"They cried out, 'Away with him, away with him, crucify him!'" John 19:15

This is a classic mob scene.

### **IV. The Ask (vv37-39)**

#### **v37**

#### **v38**

#### **v39**

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

Matthew 10:22

#### **Christian character that will sustain us as society deteriorates:**

1. Courage (to face opposition),
2. Conviction (of the truth),
3. Confident (in God's sovereignty),
4. Composure (a public testament of true faith),
5. Self-restraint, (opposite of unrestrained passion or indulgence)
6. Reason (opposite of confusion and chaos),
7. Humility (opposite of pride and arrogance).