

PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE THE MOB
Acts 21:40 - 22:1-22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul asked permission to speak vs. 39
 - 1) "suffer me to speak unto the people"
 - 2) epitripico = "to permit"

- B. Paul was granted permission vs. 40
 - 1) "And when he had given him licence"
 - 2) epitripico = "to permit"

- C. His remarks will be a defense vs. 1
 - 1) "defense" = apologia = "to present an argument"
 - 2) The, "Apology of Socrates" [explanation]

- D. The drama of the moment
 - 1) Paul addressed a mob of religious fanatics
 - 2) He speaks to people he deeply loves
 - 3) He speaks in their language, Aramaic vs. 2
 - 4) He speaks from the stairs vs. 21:40
 - 5) There is, "a great silence"

- I. I Am One of Your Own vs. 3 -
 - A. Paul's genealogy
 - 1) He was born a Jew
 - 2) He was educated a Jew "feet of Gamliel"

 - B. Paul was zealous toward God
 - 1) He knew the law of the fathers
 - 2) "as ye all are this day"

- II. Paul Persecuted "This Way" vs. 4 - 5
 - A. "I persecuted this way unto death"
 - 1) "binding and delivering into prison"
 - 2) "both men and women" Heb. 11:35-40
 - 3) Did Paul see all these things? "

 - B. The high Priest could verify his dedication to destroy, "this way" vs. 5
 - 1) "the high Priest doth bear me witness"
 - 2) "and all the estate of elders"
 - 3) Paul traveled far and wide

- III. Paul's Damascus Road Experience vs. 6-11
 - A. A great light shone about him
 - 1) He fell to the ground
 - 2) Jesus spoke to him

B. Others on the Damascus road

- 1) They saw the light
- 2) They did not hear Jesus

C. Jesus gave him directions

- 1) vs. 10
- 2) He was led by the had to Damascus

IV. Paul's Damascus Experience vs. 12-16

A. Ananias was his instructor vs. 12

- 1) "a devout man according to the law"
- 2) "having a good report of all the Jews"
- 3) he gave Paul his sight vs. 13

B. Paul is a chosen vessel vs. 14

- 1) "The God of our fathers hath chosen thee"
- 2) "thou shouldst know His will"
- 3) "and see that Just one" [Paul wisely uses a title and not a name]

C. Paul will be a witness vs. 15

- 1) "For thou shalt be his witness unto all men"
- 2) "of what thou hast seen and heard"

D. Paul was baptized vs. 16

- 1) "And now why tarriest thou?"
- 2) "arise, and be baptized"
- 3) "and wash away thy sins"
- 4) "calling on the name of the Lord"

"And now why delay, get yourself immersed, be cleansed from your sins, as you call on His name." Paul's literal sins, were under the blood of Jesus. This act of baptism will give him the opportunity to walk in the new life, free from any condemnation of his past or old life.

V. Paul's Jerusalem Experience vs. 17-21

A. Paul was in a trance

- 1) "while I prayed in the temple"
- 2) "trance" = ekstasis = "the state of removal", "standing out of", "a person outside his senses"

B. Jesus appeared to Paul vs. 18

- 1) "And saw his saying unto me"
- 2) "Make haste, and get the quickly out of Jerusalem"
- 3) "For they will not receive thy testimony concerning me"

C. Paul felt compelled to right the wrongs that he had done in Jerusalem. vs. 19-20

- 1) Paul had beaten and imprisoned Christians
- 2) He had aided in the stoning of Stephen
- 3) Paul always deeply grieved because of these things he did in "unbelief" I Cor. 15:9 - "For I am least of the Apostles, that I am not meet to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

D. God was not impressed vs. 21

- 1) "Depart" = poreuo = "to cause to pass over by land or by water", "to transport one's self"
- 2) "for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles"
- 3) "send" = exapostello = ek + apostle "to send away", to equip and send forth", "commission"

VI. The Response of the Mob vs. 22-23

A. "they gave audience unto this word" vs. 22

- 1) "audience" = akouo = "to listen"
- 2) The word that ended it all, "gentile"

B. "Away with such a fellow"

- 1) "it is [not fit] that he should live" vs. 23
- 2) katheko = "it is becoming", "proper"
- 3) They cried out
- 4) They cast of their clothing
- 5) They threw dust in the air