

ACTS

THE TRIUMPHS OF CHRIST BY HIS SPIRIT THROUGH HIS CHURCH

Sunday Morning, August 14, 2022 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Composure in Chaos

Message Text: Acts 21:17-40

Introduction:

Paul arrived in Jerusalem to deliver a love offering for the suffering Jewish believers and for a celebration of Pentecost. It had been 20 years since the first Pentecost. No doubt Paul was anticipating the celebration and how he would recount to the church all that God had done throughout the world! The Gospel has touched both the Jew and the Greek. How big is God?! However, the warm welcome he received on day one cooled a bit as Paul met with Pastor James and the other pastors. He quickly discovered that his presence was going to create a stir in Jerusalem and the church leadership was nervous. Let's observe the Paul's choices in the midst of the challenges he faced.

1. The _____ Paul Faced (17-22)

Acts 21:17–22 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. 18 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. 19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. 20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: 21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. 22 What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

THEY GLORIFIED GOD (20a)

THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN (20b)

THE ISSUE — The *believing Jews* in Jerusalem, who would be assembling soon, had been informed about Paul's teachings to the Jews living among Gentiles and would react poorly.

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sermon notes



QUOTE: They retained their Jewish way of living, circumcised their children, ate kosher, kept the Sabbath, etc.. — Lenski

NOTE — Paul was specifically called by God to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

2. The _____ Paul was Given (23-27)

Acts 21:23 Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; 24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. 25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication. 26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

NAZARITE VOW — This was a way for someone, male or female (cf. Num. 6:1), who was not of the tribe of Levi, to dedicate himself or herself to God's service (i.e. "holy to the Lord"). Nazarite means "one separated..."

Paul would pay the charges required at the end of their vow. (*The rabbis taught that it was a great honor to pay for the Nazarites vow (Ned. 10a).*)

1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

3. The _____ that Arose (27-29)

Acts 21:27-29 And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, 28 Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. 29 (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

JEWS WHICH WERE OF ASIA

Acts 14:19 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PAUL (28)

NOTE — These Jews from Asia made assumption in their rage that Paul had brought a Gentile into the temple.

QUOTE: No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught so doing will have himself to blame for his ensuing death. (cf. Ephesians 2:14).

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Luke 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

4. The _____ Gathered in Uproar (30-36)

Acts 21:30–36 And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut. 31 And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul. 33 Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done. 34 And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle. 35 And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people. 36 For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

ALL THE CITY WAS MOVED

DEFINITION—MOVED: to be stirred up (emotionally)
{Same as Acts 21:30 at Ephesus}

DEFINITION—RUN TOGETHER: hasty assembly
{Same as Acts 21:30 at Ephesus}

AN ESCALATING UPROAR (30-34)

NOTE — This uproar had happened because the unbelieving Jews of Asia despised the message of Jesus Christ and were envious of Paul's success. — of truth.

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming

John 15:18–19 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

5. The _____ Paul Maintained (36-40)

Acts 21:37–40 And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek? 38 Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers? 39 But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people. 40 And when he had given him licence, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying,

QUOTE: This is God-given composure in a situation of great crisis and danger. —Chrispin

GRACE — God's divine enablement

Mark 13:9–11 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. 10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations. 11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Conclusion

When I face the differences of perspective (*because of calling or gifting*) among my fellow believers, I will respond with deference and grace.

I will seek the grace of God for composure even in the face of ridicule or even persecution for my faith.



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