

Series: Radical Renewal

Sermon: God's Prevailing Mission

Scripture: Acts 21:17-36

Teacher: Jimmy Kim

Date: May 22, 2022

Acts 21:17-36 (ESV)

²⁷ 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,

²⁸ crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

³⁰ Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut.

³¹ And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

³² He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³ Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done.

³⁴ Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.

³⁵ And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd,

³⁶ for the mob of the people followed, crying out, "Away with him!"

I. Paul Affirmed (Acts 21:17-20a)

¹⁷ When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly.

¹⁸ On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

¹⁹ After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

²⁰ And when they heard it, they glorified God.

Application: Remember your calling

Acts 21: 13b-14 (ESV)

¹³ "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

Acts 9:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

II. Paul Acquiesces (vv. 20b-26)

^{20b} And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,

²¹ and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

²² What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

²³ Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow;

²⁴ take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.

²⁵ But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.”

²⁶ Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

Application: Remember your mission

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

III. Paul Accused (vv. 27-30)

²⁷ 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,

²⁸ crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”

²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

³⁰ Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut.

Application: Remember Christ, our Advocate!

Acts 9:15-16

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Acts 21: 13b-14

¹³ “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”

IV. Paul Arrested (vv. 31-36)

³¹ And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

³² He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³ Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done.

³⁴ Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.

³⁵ And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd,

³⁶ for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “Away with him!”

Application: Remember Christ, our Rescuer!

Acts 21: 13b-14

¹³ “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”