



Testifying of Christ to All

Acts 21:27-36 (ESV)

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.

Acts 21:27-36 (ESV)

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.

Acts 21:27-36 (ESV)

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,

Acts 21:27-36 (ESV)

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,

Acts 21:27-36 (ESV)

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!”

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? ³⁸ Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?” ³⁹ Paul replied, “I am a Jew,

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.”⁴⁰

And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

22

“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city,

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness.

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. ⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’

⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will,

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’ ¹⁷ “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed,

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”²² Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.”

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

²³ And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips,

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?”²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.”²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him,

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

“Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.”²⁸ The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I am a citizen by birth.”²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately,

Acts 21:37-22:29 (ESV)

and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.

If you would like to talk to Chuck about the sermon, please feel free to call him, email him.



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