

Acts 21:17-26

1. What was the purpose of Paul's visit to Jerusalem (verse 17)? How does this connect to his mission?

2. What do the elders in Jerusalem express concern about regarding Paul's teachings (verses 20-22)?

3. The elders in Jerusalem suggested a practical step for Paul to show his respect for Jewish customs. How can church leaders today address potential conflicts or misunderstandings among diverse groups in the church?

4. Why do the elders suggest Paul participate in the purification rites (verses 23-24)? What does this show us about their priorities and the cultural tensions between Jewish and Gentile believers?

5. Paul agreed to participate in the purification rites to show unity with the Jewish believers, despite his strong stance on salvation by grace through faith alone. How can we prioritize unity in the body of Christ while respecting different traditions or practices?

Acts 21:27-40

6. What accusations are made against Paul in the temple (verse 28)? How accurate are these accusations? How do you respond when others misinterpret your intentions or actions?

7. How does the crowd respond to Paul (verses 30-31)? What might this reveal about their understanding of Paul's ministry?

8. How does the Roman commander intervene, and what does this say about Roman authority at the time (verses 31-36)?

9. What does Paul's calmness and readiness to address the crowd in the midst of chaos (verse 40) teach us about responding to opposition? How do you rely on God for strength and courage in moments of opposition?