



MIDWEEK FILLUP | THE STUDY OF ACTS

ACTS 22

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

1. To explore Paul's address to the Jerusalem mob
2. To understand how Paul used his Roman citizenship to avoid scourging
3. To observe Paul taken before the Sanhedrin council

SUMMARY

Paul addressed the crowd as "brethren and fathers" in Hebrew. The mob became very quiet when they heard that. Paul began his defense by providing his background: He was a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia; he was brought up in Jerusalem at the "feet of Gamaliel;" he was taught "according to the strictness of our father's law;" and he was zealous toward God, just like them. Paul added that he had persecuted the Way to the death. He bound and delivered men and women to prison. He acted under the high priest's and elders' authority. Paul called upon their witness for himself. He had received letters from them to travel to Damascus to bring those of the Way back to Jerusalem for punishment. Paul then described the Lord's appearance to him on the road to Damascus. At about noon, a bright light shined around Paul. He fell to the ground. The Lord asked him why he was persecuting Him. The Lord identified Himself as Jesus of Nazareth. Paul asked, "What shall I do, Lord?" The Lord told him to go into Damascus and he would be told what to do. He was led by the hand into Damascus by his companions, because he could not see. Paul then described his obedience to the gospel when taught by Ananias. Ananias came to Paul. He restored his sight. Ananias told Paul that he had been chosen to "know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth." Paul was to be "His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard." Ananias told Paul what to do to be forgiven of his sins. He asked Paul, "Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Next, Paul described how the Lord had sent him to the Gentiles. Paul returned to Jerusalem. He was praying in the temple, and was in a trance. The Lord appeared to him and told him to quickly depart from Jerusalem for the Jews would "not receive your testimony concerning Me." Paul attempted to explain to the Lord that he could make the Jews understand. He responded that the Jews knew of his persecution of those of the Way. He added that he had even consented to the death of Stephen, holding the killer's clothes. The Lord told Paul of His plans for him. Paul was to depart. He was sent far away to the Gentiles. (1-21)

The Jews listened until the Gentiles were mentioned. When the Jews heard that he was sent to the Gentiles, they raised their voices, "...he is not fit to live!" They tore their clothes and threw dust in the air. At this point, the Romans prepared to examine Paul under scourging. The Roman commander ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. The commander

wanted to know why they shouted so against Paul. He ordered that Paul should be examined under scourging. The soldiers bound Paul with thongs. Paul asked the centurion standing nearby, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" The centurion told this to the commander. The commander asked Paul if he was a Roman citizen, and Paul affirmed that he was. The commander then indicated that he had purchased his citizenship at a great price; however, Paul noted that he was a Roman by birth. The soldiers were frightened by this. They were afraid because they had bound a Roman citizen, and they were about to scourge him. (22-29)

The commander still wanted to know why he was accused by the Jews. The next day, Paul was released from his bonds. The chief priests and the council were commanded to appear, and Paul was brought before them. (30)

OUTLINE

1. PAUL ADDRESSED THE MOB (1-21)

a. PAUL BEGAN HIS DEFENSE (1-2)

- i. Paul addressed the crowd as "brethren and fathers"
- ii. The mob became very quiet when they heard him speak in Hebrew

b. PAUL DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS SIMILAR TO THEM (3-5)

- i. Paul's description of himself included:
 1. He was a Jew
 2. Born in Tarsus of Cilicia
 3. Brought up in Jerusalem at the "feet of Gamaliel"
 4. Taught in the "strictness of our father's law"
 5. Zealous toward God - like them
- ii. Paul persecuted the Way to the death
 1. He bound and delivered men and women to prison
 2. He acted under the high priest's and elders' authority and witness
 3. He had received letters to go to Damascus to bring those of the Way to Jerusalem for punishment

c. PAUL DESCRIBED THE LORD'S APPEARANCE ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS (6-11)

- i. At about noon, on the road to Damascus, a bright light shined around Paul
 1. He fell to the ground
 2. He heard Jesus ask him why he was persecuting Him
 3. The Lord identified Himself as Jesus of Nazareth
- ii. Paul asked the Lord what he should do
 1. Paul's traveling companions saw the light but did not hear the voice (or understand it)
 2. Paul asked, "What shall I do, Lord?"

3. The Lord told Paul to go into Damascus and he would be told what to do
4. He was led by the hand into Damascus by his companions, because he could not see

d. PAUL DESCRIBED HIS OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL WHEN TAUGHT BY ANANIAS (12-16)

1. Ananias came to Paul
 - a. He restored Paul's sight
 - b. Ananias told Paul that he had been chosen to "know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth"
 - c. Paul was to be "His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard"
2. Ananias told Paul what to do to be forgiven of his sins
 - a. He asked Paul, "Why are you waiting?"
 - b. "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord"

e. PAUL DESCRIBED THE LORD SENDING HIM TO THE GENTILES (17-21)

- i. The Lord spoke to Paul
 1. Paul returned to Jerusalem; he was praying in the temple
 2. He was in a trance and the Lord appeared to him
 3. The Lord told him to quickly depart from Jerusalem for the Jews would "not receive your testimony concerning Me"
- ii. Paul attempted to explain to the Lord that he could make the Jews understand
 1. Paul responded that the Jews knew of his persecution of those of the Way
 2. He added that he had even consented to the death of Stephen, holding the killer's clothes
- iii. The Lord told Paul of His plans for him
 1. Paul was to depart
 2. He was sent far away to the Gentiles

2. PAUL CLAIMED HIS ROMAN CITIZENSHIP (22-29)

a. THE JEWS LISTENED UNTIL THE GENTILES WERE MENTIONED (22-23)

- i. When the Jews heard that he was sent to the Gentiles, they raised their voices, "...he is not fit to live!"
- ii. They tore their clothes and threw dust in the air

b. ROMANS PREPARED TO EXAMINE PAUL UNDER SCOURGING (24)

- i. The Roman commander ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks
- ii. The commander wanted to know why they shouted against Paul
- iii. He ordered that Paul should be examined under scourging

c. PAUL NOTIFIED THE ROMANS OF HIS ROMAN CITIZENSHIP (25-29)

- i. The soldiers bound Paul
- ii. Paul asked the centurion, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?"
- iii. The centurion told this to the commander
- iv. The commander verified Paul's Roman citizenship
 1. He asked Paul if he was a Roman citizen, and Paul affirmed
 2. The commander indicated that he had purchased his citizenship, but Paul noted that he was a Roman by birth
- v. The soldiers were frightened by this - his citizenship
 1. They were afraid because they had bound a Roman citizen
 2. They were afraid because they were about to scourge a Roman citizen

3. PAUL TAKEN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN COUNCIL (30)

a. THE COMMANDER SOUGHT FOR THE JEW'S ACCUSATION (30)

- i. The commander wanted to know why he was accused by the Jews
- ii. Paul was released from his bonds
- iii. The chief priests and the council were commanded to appear
- iv. The commander brought Paul before them (Sanhedrin)