

ACTS: Church On Mission
Part 55 - Haircuts For The Sake Of The Gospel
Acts 21:17-36

VS_17-20a- "When we had come to Jerusalem the brothers received us gladly. On the following day Paul went in w/ us to James, & all the elders were present. After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified God"

VS_20b-22- "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, & 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. What then is to be done?"

VS_23-25- "Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take these men & purify yourself along w/ them & 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. But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter w/ our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, & from blood, & from what has been strangled, & from sexual immorality."

VS_26- "Then Paul took the men, & the next day he purified himself along w/ them & went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled & the offering presented for each one of them."

- John 8:36- "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-22- "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 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. 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. 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."

VS_27-36- "When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd & laid hands on him, crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people & the law & this place. (gossip gets bigger) Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple & has defiled this holy place." For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian w/ him in the city, & they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple. (how's that logic?) Then all the city was stirred up, & the people ran together. They seized Paul & dragged him out of the temple, & at once the gates were shut. And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion. He at once took soldiers & centurions & ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune & the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. Then the tribune came up & arrested him & ordered him to be bound w/ two chains. He inquired who he was & what he had done. Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd, for the mob of the people followed, crying out, "Away w/ him!"

- Romans 8:28- "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."
- Philippians 4:4- "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice"
- James, writing to Christians scattered by persecution & poverty...
- James 1:2-4- "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect & complete, lacking in nothing."
- Acts 5:40-41- "When they had called in the apostles, they beat them & charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."
 - 2 Corinthians 1:8-10- "For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, & he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again."
- 1 Peter 2:19-22- "For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin & are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good & suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth." (wow)