

Study Guide for April 9th, 2006. Arrival & Arrest. Acts 21:17-36

Introduction: Recall a time circumstances turned out contrary to your hopes, but in retrospect, were used to accomplish much good – not only for you, but also for others.

I. Reception & Rejoicing. (Acts 21:17-20a)

- A. Who does Paul visit upon his arrival in Jerusalem? How is he received?
- B. What does Paul report to the leaders in Jerusalem? How do they react?
- C. Paul brought a financial gift (Acts 24:17) from Gentile churches and hoped this service for the saints in Jerusalem would be accepted (Rom. 15:31). In light of Paul's reception, what effect do you think the gift had on the church in Jerusalem?
- D. When have you been offered a gift that expressed a desire for a closer relationship?

II. Recognition & Rebuttal. (Acts 21:20b-25)

- A. How do you think Paul reacted to the news that **many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law**? (Refer to Rom. 10:1-4)
- B. What was being said of Paul on the streets of Jerusalem? Were those claims true?
- C. What plan do the leaders propose? Would this plan compromise the gospel?
- D. Reflect on I Cor. 9:19-23. How do these words and Paul's example challenge you?

III. Response & Recrimination. (Acts 21:26-29)

- A. What happened when Paul followed the plan and went to the temple?
- B. Were the accusations leveled against Paul true? (see Acts 24:18-20)
- C. How should we respond when falsely accused? (see Mt. 5:11-12, I Pet. 4:1,15)

IV. Riot & Rejection. (Acts 21:30-36)

- A. Compare and contrast this riot scene to the one in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41)
- B. Compare the crowd here with that in Jesus day. (Acts 23:20)
- C. Who does God use to rescue Paul? What encouragement do you find in this act?
- D. Read ahead (Acts 21:37 – 22:22). What does God ultimately accomplish by these events? Read Acts 23:11 in this light. How can you be a more faithful witness?