

## **LESSON 5: ACTS 20:21:22:30**

### **Paul's Last Recorded Visit to Jerusalem**

1. What does Paul's Roman citizenship offer (vv. 25-30)? What is the significance, for us as followers of Jesus, of Paul's action in calling on his rights as a citizen?
2. Rather than refute the specific charge of defiling the Temple (see 21:28-29), Paul risks his life with a much broader defense of himself (vv. 3-21)? What was really at stake here? What was "the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews" (v. 30)

### **Defense Before the Sanhedrin and Felix the Governor**

1. Why is Paul brought before the Sanhedrin (23:1-5)? Why is the Tribune in attendance? Is his presence necessary?
2. What is God's part in this event (v. 11)?
3. To what lengths are the Jewish fanatics willing to go in order to silence Paul, and how committed are they (vv. 11-15)? What divine and human factors stop the fanatics (vv. 16-30)?
4. What is your impression of Claudius Lysias as he responds to this threat on Paul's life (vv. 23-25)?
5. There are four major human parties in the events of this chapter: Paul, the Sanhedrin, the conspirators, Claudius Lysias. Discuss the level of commitment to their beliefs and how they acted on them. Where do you see these types of commitment today?

6. How did Paul refute the charges which Tertullus makes against him (24:2-21)? (Specifically, note that Paul is charged (a) with making trouble, inciting dissension (vv. 11-13, 17-18); (b) with leading a new, unlawful sect (vv. 14-16); and (c) with desecrating the Temple (vv. 11-13,17,21).)
  
7. Why is it important to us that Christianity was not something new, but the true extension of the faith recorded in the Law and the prophets (vv. 14-15)?
  
8. Felix is typical of the person who is exposed to, but ultimately rejects the Gospel (vv. 22-27). What forces are active in Felix's life and in his relationship with Paul? Why doesn't he become a convert?
  
9. To this point, how long has Paul been in protective custody (v. 27)? What do you think he was doing all this time? What would you have done?