

# Corner For Religious News

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

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November 15

### PAUL'S ARREST IN JERUSALEM

LESSON TEXT—Acts 21:18-23:22.  
GOLDEN TEXT—"If any man suffer  
as a Christian, let him not be ashamed."  
PRIMARY TOPIC—Paul Is Brave In  
Danger.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul and the Jeru-  
salem Mob.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOP-  
IC—Paul Faces a Mob.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOP-  
IC—The Spirit of the Mob.

### I. Paul's Vow (21:18-20).

Upon Paul's arrival at Jerusalem representatives of the church there gave him a most cordial reception. In order that the brethren in Jerusalem might graciously receive him, it was proposed to him by the elders that he take a Jewish vow to prove that he was in no way opposed to the law. The effort was to remove prejudice. They recognized that such an act would in no way compromise or involve the Gentile brethren. Furthermore this would not compromise his own principles of action, viz., to the Jews he became a Jew, and to the Gentiles, a Gentile; all things to all men in order to gain them for Christ.

### II. Paul's Arrest (21:27-40).

How far this act conciliated the Jews we are not told, but it only enraged the unbelieving Jews, causing them to resort to mob law. These maddened Jews on the basis of a supposed seized him and dragged him from the temple and beat him mercilessly intending to put him to death. Paul was rescued from the mob by the Roman guard. The chief captain, not being able to get any information from the howling mob, bound Paul and started for the castle. In order to protect him from the murderous frenzy of the mob, the soldiers lifted him upon their shoulders and bore him up the stairs. Paul kept himself under control, and politely asked permission of the captain to speak to the people. When he addressed him in Greek and quoted his Roman citizenship, the captain granted his request.

### III. Paul's Defense (22:1-27).

Paul's chief concern was not his own safety. He used this opportunity to witness unto them of Christ.

### 1. His Claim for a Rightful Hearing (vv. 1-3).

#### (1) His birth (v. 3).

He was a Jew born in Tarsus, a city of no mean reputation.

#### (2) His Education (v. 3).

He was educated under Gamaliel and instructed "according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers."

#### (3) His Zeal (v. 3).

He was as zealous toward God as those Jews who were trying to destroy him.

#### 2. His Attitude Toward Jesus (vv. 4-5).

"I persecuted this way unto the death," so that his attitude was one of hatred as was that of the Jews.

#### 3. How His Attitude Was Changed (vv. 6-16).

While on his way to Damascus with authority to blind the Christians at Jerusalem, he was smitten to the ground by a light from heaven, and the voice of the Lord said, "Why persecutest thou me?" When Paul inquired what he was to do, he was told to go to Damascus where he would be told what to do.

#### 4. The Lord Commissioned Him to Go to the Gentiles (17-21).

#### IV. Paul Before the Sanhedrin (23:1-10).

The Roman officer, in order to learn why Paul was arrested, commanded the chief council to assemble, and brought Paul before them.

#### 1. Paul's Earnest Look at the Council (vv. 1-2).

This was a solicitation of their honor to give him a fair hearing, and also a look of conscious integrity and unfaltering courage.

#### 2. Paul's Stern Rebuke of the Head of the Council (v. 3).

"God shall smite thee, thou whited wall."

#### 3. Paul's Appeal to the Pharisees (vv. 8-10).

Seeing that he could not get a fair hearing, and perceiving that the body before him was made up of Pharisees and Sadducees, he appealed to the Pharisees hoping to get their attention, for his preaching had something in common with their belief.

#### V. The Lord Stood by Paul (v. 11).

This assured him that his course was right, and thus comfort was brought to him.

#### VI. The Conspiracy to Kill Paul (vv. 18-22).

More than forty men placed themselves under a curse to abstain from eating and drinking until they had murdered him. God defeated their plan without a miracle.

#### Darkness

The darkness which is the result of the absence of the light which others ought to shed is bad enough; but how great is the darkness of disbelief and unbelief into which some will voluntarily plunge!—The Mennonite.

#### WHY GO TO CHURCH?

and liberals was working beneath the surface."

Some of the Jewish Christians were zealous for the Mosaic law and were suspicious of Paul's orthodoxy, and they proposed that he go into the temple with four brethren that had taken a vow and, by thus appearing with them, disarray these criticisms.

Paul in accord with his practice of being all things to all men when no principle was imperiled, complied with this request.

A selfish man sees a selfish world; a man whose object is money sees a financial world; one who revels in pleasure sees the world as a grand theater; the disgruntled man sees the world as a stage of troubles; the pessimist sees a world of hard knocks.

On the other hand an unselfish man sees a world of humanity; the one whose object is rendering service sees a world of blessed opportunities; the one who enjoys mental, moral and spiritual life, the world is Heaven's university; the man who takes everything that comes with a smile sees a world created and taken care of by God his father.

It is a question then of the right vision, right viewpoint, right ideals, correct interpretations of life and possessing good qualities of character. These may be attained while waiting on God in worship. WHY NOT GO TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY?

#### Sermonograms

No man drifts homeward.

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A church fuss is the devil's delight.

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Wherever you go, love will light the way.

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Nothing is well done until it is willingly done.

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God's will is the very perfection of all reason.—Edward Payson.

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Many a man refuses to let his shortcomings rest in peace.

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Go to church from duty until you go to church from delight.

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An hour of well-doing is better than a month of repentance.

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Gossip does not embellish conversation—it throws mud upon it.

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A lack of harmony in the choir is not always revealed in the singing.

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People pay far more attention to our example than they do to our good advice.

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Sometimes the easiest way to cheer oneself is to go out and cheer somebody else.

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Selfishness and injustice tangle life's threads in knots that are hard to undo.

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You will never do a full day's work if you toil only when you feel like it.

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You may rob a man by withholding from him that which of a right belongs to him.

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Heaven may be reached by a single bound; but hell may be reached by a sinable step.

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There are persons whose idea of putting "first things first" is always to put themselves first.

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There is a great deal of practical Christianity in simply holding one's tongue on unpleasant subjects.

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Make every occasion a great occasion; for you cannot tell when some one may be taking your measure for a larger place.

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Do what you are paid to do and then some; it's the 'then some' that gets your salary raised.

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COMMENTS ON THE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem—The ceaseless conflict over incidentals obscuring essentials—(Acts 21:27-39) for Sunday, November 15.

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From his interview with the Ephesian elders Paul proceeded to Jerusalem and the trouble which he anticipated soon began. He was kindly received by the brethren and the church. Narrating his labors among the Gentiles he drew from them praise unto God. The church seemed to be harmonious and united yet as Dr. James H. Snowdon says, "the old antagonism between conservatives

and liberals was working beneath the surface."

Some of the Jewish Christians were zealous for the Mosaic law and were suspicious of Paul's orthodoxy, and they proposed that he go into the temple with four brethren that had taken a vow and, by thus appearing with them, disarray these criticisms. Paul in accord with his practice of being all things to all men when no principle was imperiled, complied with this request.

We are still subject to these little prejudices and distorted perspectives of life today. Thousands of Christian people think that Christianity has a brief for the white race, and that America somehow is paramount in the councils of an all-seeing God.

It is a well-known fact that the old laws based on the Koran, has been completed by a commission of experts and will be placed before the Grand National Assembly at Angra for adoption when next that body meets.

Polygamy is entirely abolished, civil

marriages only are legal and the right

of inheritance by will is adopted.

A new and modern legal code for Turkey, designed to sweep away the old laws based on the Koran, has been completed by a commission of experts and will be placed before the Grand National Assembly at Angra for adoption when next that body meets.

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of inheritance by will is adopted.

The Jews allowed incidentals to

eclipse the great essentials of faith.

Let us take care that two thousand

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