

The next day Paul went to see James and the leaders of the Jerusalem church (21:17–18). In Greece and Turkey many thousands of non-Jews had believed. Paul wanted to tell the elders what God had done there.

The elders praised God. But they said to Paul, 'There are thousands of Jews who try hard to obey the Law of Moses. They have heard that you teach the Jews to turn away from Moses. They think you teach them not to circumcise their children and not to live according to customs. They will hear that you have come, so do what we tell you' (21:20–23).

They told Paul to take four men who were with them to the Temple, to be purified; to have their heads shaved; to pay for them to offer sacrifices. This would be obeying the Law of Moses.

Paul agreed to do this. However, he always preached that men are saved by grace, and through faith alone, not by keeping the Law of Moses (Ephesians 2:8–9).



**Easy-to-read
commentary**

PAUL IS ATTACHED BY THE JEWS

It was an easy thing for Paul to obey the Law of Moses. He had done this before.

Paul had taken the Nazarite Vow (Numbers 6:1–21). He had shaved his head and washed it (Acts 18:18). The four Jewish Christians in Jerusalem may have been under the same vow. It was time to have their heads shaved (21:24). Paul went with them.

At the Temple some of the Jews from Asia Minor saw Paul. They hated Paul and wanted to kill him. They said he had taken a non-Jew into the Temple. 'He has made this holy place unclean,' they shouted (21:28).

The crowds tried to kill Paul, but the Roman commander saved him from them and tied him up with chains. The soldiers carried him away to the Roman fort (21:34–35). There Paul stood on the steps and asked to speak to the crowds (21:39).



Talk about:

1. Explain the work of the Holy Spirit in Paul's journey to Jerusalem (19:21; 20:22–23; 21:4, 11–13).
2. What advice did the believers give to Paul (21:20)?
3. How did the believers encourage Paul (21:21)?
4. How did the words of the Holy Spirit in 21:11 come true?
5. When Paul obeyed the Law of Moses (21:26) was this a good thing for Paul?



Acts 22:1–29

PAUL SPEAKS GOD'S TRUTH TO THE CROWDS

Paul spoke to the crowds in the Hebrew language so that they would fully understand him. He told them:

1. He was a Jew who knew the Law of Moses very well (22:3)
 2. He was given permission to put followers of Jesus into prison and send them to die (22:4–5).
 3. He was met by Jesus on the road to Damascus (22:6–11).
 4. God sent a Jewish believer to speak to him. He told Paul to witness about Jesus (22:12–16).
 5. In Jerusalem, Jesus told Paul to witness about Him in other places around the world and to people who are not Jews (22:17–21).
- When the crowds heard this they wanted to kill Paul (22:22). The Roman commander gave orders for Paul to be flogged (22:24). When the commander found out that Paul was a Roman as well as a Jew, they stopped flogging him. (22:29). Then the commander took Paul to the Jewish Court, the Sanhedrin (22:30).



Talk about:

1. Why were the Jews so angry with Paul?
2. How did Paul explain his actions to the angry crowd (22:22)?
3. Why was the Roman commander afraid to flog Paul (22:29)?



Paul was not afraid to tell the truth

Paul preached that the Law of Moses was good but not sufficient to save people from their sins (Romans 3:20). He preached that people are put right with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22). He knew that the Law is a guide for telling us what is wrong. But the Law alone cannot save us from our sins (Romans 3:20). It shows what is right and wrong.

Many found it difficult to understand. This is why Paul was in trouble with some of the Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 21:21). Many believers were trying to do good but still had a strong respect for the Law of Moses (21:20). Because of this, Paul was asked to show that he believed in the Law of Moses (21:23–24). He wanted to please these men and also to please God. But soon Paul was in trouble with Jews from Asia Minor (21:27).

Then he asked to explain the truth (Acts 21:39). This caused further trouble with the Jews in Jerusalem (22:22). But the Lord Jesus told Paul, 'Be brave! You have given witness to me in Jerusalem. You must do the same in Rome' (23:11). **Always pray for boldness to tell the truth.**



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

based on Acts chapters 18 to 22

Please choose the correct answers, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, or three answers that are correct for each question.

13. In Corinth Paul was welcomed by the Jews and the Gentiles.

13. In Corinth Paul was welcomed by the Jews and the Gentiles.
 - a) met Aquila and Priscilla and worked with them.
 - b) was welcomed by the Jews in the synagogue.
 - c) only spoke to the Jews.

Study questions

Multiple-choice