

## Lesson Seventeen: Arrest in Jerusalem

### **Agreement with the elders** (*read verses 21:17-26*)

- 1) Why did the leaders of the Jerusalem church want Paul to participate in the vow (21:20-25)? In their eyes, how would this act serve the gospel?
- 2) What might have been some of Paul's reasons for doing as these believers asked? (see 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and Romans 14:13 – 15:3.)

### **Arrest** (*read verses 21:27-39*)

- 3) How were the accusations against Paul like and unlike those against Stephen (see 6:11-14 and 21:27-28)? Why is this significant?

### **Paul's defense to the Jews** (*read verses 21:40 – 22:29*)

- 4) Paul called his speech a "defense" (22:1; Greek *apologia*). Summarize what he said to the Jews.
- 5) How did Paul shape this speech to appeal to the Jews? Observe the details in 21:40- 22:21.
- 6) Why did 22:21 make the Jews interrupt Paul with rage?
- 7) Paul would have known that this would irritate the Jews. Why do you think that he risked his life instead of just refuting the charge of defiling the temple?

### **Before the Sanhedrin** (*read verses 22:30 – 23:11*)

- 8) In what sense was the division between the Pharisees and Sadducees at the heart of the issue for which Paul was on trial – the issue of whether Christianity was the true fulfillment of Judaism?
- 9) What do you think was the purpose of the promise in 23:11? What does it tell you about the Lord?

