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 fulfilment of Judaism?
- 9) What do you think was the purpose of the promise in 23:11? What does it tell you about the Lord?

Your Response: (consider doing one or more of these activities this week)

✓ Are you called upon to weigh Christian fellowship against personal beliefs about what should be done? If so, what should you choose? Talk to God about this.

✓ For what three important things had God chosen Paul (see 22:14)? To what extent have you been chosen for these? How should you respond?

✓ What one truth from this week's passages would you like to take to heart this week? How can you apply it?