

Slandered in a Holy Place Acts 21:17-40

Gentiles' response to Paul's ministry leads to glorifying God. 17-20a

- Paul stays with yet another Hellenistic Jew from Cyprus, 4:36, 11:19,20, 13:4.
- James (Lord's brother, 12:7, 15:3, Gal. 1:19, 2:9) and others glorify God for Paul's good news of his ministry with the Gentiles. Where are the apostles?

Jews' animosity toward Paul necessitates a plan to vindicate him. 20b-25

- James reports good news of Jewish converts who are zealous for the OT Law.
- Problem: But how to handle anti-Law slander being spread about Paul?
Plan: PR move to negate slander. Paul agrees, cf. 16:3, 18:18, I Cor. 9:20.
- James reiterates the only requirements for Gentile converts from Acts 15:13ff.
- How should we handle slander in most cases?

Jews' attack on Paul is based on slanderous accusations. 26-31

- Asian Jews (19:10) repeat anti-law slander and slander Paul again, claiming he brought Greeks into the temple area just for Jews (signs warned of this).
- Was this a good plan? It backfires, as Paul is nearly killed by an angry mob.

Gentiles' rescue of Paul lands him under arrest. 32-40

- Romans to the rescue yet again, 18:12ff., 19:31,37ff. (later too 23:23ff., 27:43).
- Note yet another misunderstanding, as Paul is confused for an earlier rebel!

Can you think of other people in the Bible who were slandered? How they handled it can give us us some guidance of what to do.

Consider I Pt. 2:12.

Can you see why it is so important to be careful what you say about others? It's easy to slander others.

