

November 21

Acts 21:27-36

These verses tell about Paul's arrest in Jerusalem.

Question to Consider:

In yesterday's passage, you read about Paul being at the center of a riot in Ephesus. Today, you read about yet another crowd being in an uproar and out of control. What was it about Paul and his message that got the crowds so riled up?

Prayer:

Father God, as a follower of Jesus I know there will be people who are opposed to what I believe. Help me to stand firm and while I hope that I don't cause a riot, I pray for the strength to persevere when the circumstances require it. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

November 22

Acts 21:37-22:21

In this passage, we read about Paul's address to the crowd after he was arrested.

Question to Consider:

Try to put yourself in that crowd, knowing what they knew then (not what you know now). How do you think you might have reacted to what Paul was saying?

Prayer:

Gracious God, the time will come when someone makes a faith claim that I may find difficult to understand or believe. When that time comes, help me to listen well and to discern the truth – *your truth*. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

November 23

Acts 22:22-29

In these verses, we read that Paul told the authorities he was a Roman citizen, and that information changed how he was treated.

Question to Consider:

Paul gave the authorities a new piece of information and the result was a significant change in the way he was treated. Can you think of a time when your attitude toward someone changed significantly with the addition of one piece of information? What were the circumstances? What did you learn from that experience?

Prayer:

Almighty God, it is easy to jump to conclusions about another person, or to make incorrect assumptions about someone else. Please help me to be loving and to see people as you do. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

November 24

Acts 22:30-23:11

This passage tells of Paul going before the religious rulers, the Sanhedrin.

Question to Consider:

Paul's statement about his hope in the resurrection of the dead sparked an emotional dispute between the two groups, the Pharisees and Sadducees. Can you think of an issue during your life of faith that has divided followers of Christ? How did (do) you respond?

Prayer:

Merciful God, as Christians, we so often allow ourselves to be divided unnecessarily. When divisive issues arise, give me wisdom. I pray that I will take a position when necessary, and be a peacemaker whenever possible. I pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Amen.

November 25

Acts 23:12-22

In these verses we read about a plot to kill Paul.

Question to Consider:

Among the Jews were people who were so angry with Paul that they made a pact to kill him. Such hatred is, sadly, all too common among people of faith. What is the impact on the ministry of Christ when faithful people let anger get out of control?

Prayer:

Loving God, I know the feeling of anger because I have felt it many times. There may even be times when I feel anger because of something related to the faith. Please help me to control my anger and to always strive to be a person of peace. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.