

TCC

Weekly Bible Study

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PAUL | Acts 24:1-21

April 21, 2021

Intro Discussion:

Have you ever been accused of something that was not true? What were you accused of and how did you react?

Scanning the headings in the book of Acts in chapters 22 and 23, and remembering the sermon from this Sunday, where is Paul? What has been happening to him?

Read Acts 24:1-21.

What do you notice about the way Paul's accusers (religious leaders in Jerusalem) address Felix, the governor? What words stand out to you and why?

What accusations do the Jews make against Paul?

- Do you think Jews making the accusations actually believe they are true? Why or why not?

What do you notice about Paul's tone? How is it different from the tone of his accusers?

Let's look more closely at three accusations made against Paul.

Accusation 1: Paul stirs up riots (verse 5).

- Why might the religious leaders make this accusation?
- How does Paul later defend himself against this accusation? (If time allows, read Acts 21:27-31 to see who really started the riot in Jerusalem.)

Accusation 2: Paul is a ringleader of a sect of the Nazarenes (verse 5).

- Why might the religious leaders make this accusation? What is a sect?
- How does Paul respond to this accusation (verse 14-15)?

Accusation 3: Paul profaned the temple (verse 6).

- Why might the religious leaders make this accusation? (Again, see Acts 21:27-31 for context.)
- How does Paul defend himself (see verses 16-19)?

Paul's Character

How might you have responded if you were Paul in this story? Why?

Re-read verse 16. What does Paul mean by this statement? Is this something you think about in your own life? Why does having "a clear conscience toward both God and man" matter for Christians?

- Why would this be important to Paul? Is this important to you?
- What role does the Holy Spirit have in helping us live in this way before others and God?

Mission Focus:

- What role does (or should) your personal character — the way you treat others, how you respond and react to accusations, the tone you speak with, etc. — have on your evangelism?
- How does having a good character play a role in sharing the Gospel?
- Is having a good character (“I’m a nice person”) good enough when it comes to living on mission? Was it enough for Paul?