Lesson 7: “…I will send you far from here to the Gentiles” –

Paul addresses the Jerusalem mob (Acts 22:1-30)

**Review**

In chapter 21, Paul arrives at Tyre where he stays 7 days with disciples who warn him not to go to Jerusalem. In Caesarea, he stays with Philip the evangelist where he is warned by Agabus through a prophecy that the Jews will bind him in Jerusalem and deliver him to the Gentiles. Paul states his determination to go to Jerusalem and “finish his race” (20:24). Upon arriving in Jerusalem, Paul tells James and the elders of the great things God has done among the Gentiles. They warn Paul that many believing Jews have been told that Paul teaches all Jews to forsake the Law and not follow any of its customs. They advise Paul to sponsor 4 men who are under a vow and to participate in their vow by purifying himself and paying their expenses. When the Jews see Paul in the temple, they seize him and drag him out of the temple. A mob forms accusing Paul of teaching against the people, the Law, and the temple. The commander of the garrison is called to restore order with his centurions, and he takes Paul into protective custody, fulfilling Agabus’ prophecy. Due to the unruliness of the mob, the commander has Paul taken into the barracks. Paul requests an opportunity to make a defense before the people. The commander confuses Paul with an Egyptian rebel, but Paul identifies himself as a Jew from Tarsus. Paul then quiets the crowd and begins making his defense.

**First Charge: Hostility against the Jews (“teaching against the people” – 21:28)**

1. How does Paul describe his background to address the charge of “teaching against the people” (22:3-5)? What two words does Paul use in 22:3 to describe his relationship to the law that would resonate with the audience (Philippians 3:5-6)?
2. Why do you think Paul referenced his background as part of his defense to this audience (Philippians 3:5-6)?

**Second Charge: Contempt for the Law (“teaching against the Law” – 21:28)**

1. Why do you think Paul referenced his conversion in 22:6-16 as part of his defense to this audience (Galatians 1:11-17)?
2. For what purpose did Christ appear to and select Paul (22:14-15)?
3. How was Paul’s apostolic calling different from the 12 (Acts 9:3-6)? How was it the same (Acts 1:21-22)?

**Third Charge: Desecration of the temple (“teaching against the temple” – 21:28)**

1. What is Paul’s reaction to the Lord’s warning in 22:17-20, and how is this reaction consistent with his response to previous warnings given in 21:4, 10-14?
2. What was the reaction of the mob to Paul’s defense and what causes them to respond that way (22:21-25)?
3. Given his willingness to suffer for the cause of Christ (21:13), why do you think Paul chooses to invoke his Roman citizenship at this point (22:25-29)?