ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 51: Trusting God when life is unfair

READ Acts 21:27-39 and **LISTEN** to the sermon by Pastor Craig.

As Paul was completing his seven days of purification within the temple, Jews from Asia falsely accused him of being against the people, the law, and the temple (v. 28), as well as defiling the temple. As a result, a riot ensued, and Paul was carried to safety by the intervention of Roman soldiers. This portion of Scripture marks a turning point in Luke's narrative. For the rest of Acts Paul will be in chains and the focus will move away from the Jews to the Gentiles, and away from Jerusalem to Rome.

Big idea: Paul shows us that calm courage results when we trust God in the seemingly unfair, purposeless, and difficult circumstances of life.

Questions:

1. Have you ever been unfairly charged or treated for something you did not do? How did you feel and what was your response?

2. A. What charges were made against Paul and how was he treated (vv. 28-31)?

   B. Who made the charges and why might they have made them? See v. 27 and Acts 19:8-9.

   C. Read Rom 9:1-5. What do you learn about Paul's view of his own people, the Jews?

   D. What was the ultimate purpose of the Law of Moses, and the Temple? How did Paul show he was for these things and not against them? See Gal 3:24.

3. How did Jesus respond to false accusations and what do we learn from this? John 18:36

   1 Peter 2:18-23

4. Why should we not be surprised when we are treated unfairly for the sake of Christ? See John 15:18-19.

5. A. How should we understand God's sovereignty over our unfair and unjust circumstances of life? See vv. 31-36; Gen 50:20; Acts 4:27-28; Rom 8:28.

   B. What comfort might you gain from this when things feel unfair?

6. What encouragement do you receive by the way Paul handled himself during this very difficult ordeal in vv. 37-39?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: *the God who is sovereign over all unfair and unjust circumstances in ife*
Confess*: those times when you have given way to fear and despair instead of faith*
Pray: *that you may trust in Jesus with calm courage when difficulties in life arise*