

THE CHURCH UNLEASHED

"When It All Goes Wrong"

Acts 21:27-40

INTRODUCTION:

1. Review:

- **Acts 21:1-14** "Convictions That Lead To Courage"
 - 1) Question: "Where do convictions (a fixed belief) come from?"
 - a) Paul was going to Jerusalem in spite of the warnings from friends and prophets.
 1. Vs 14

- **Acts 21:15-26** "The Humility of Leadership"
 - 1) Three Principles of Humility
 - a) Principle #1 Humility **Seeks** God's Glory Vs 15-20a
 - b) Principle #2 Humility **Surrenders** to Wisdom Vs 20b-21
 - c) Principle #3 Humility **Submits** to Avoid Conflict Vs 22-26

 - 2) **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

2. C.S. Lewis

"Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but courage is the form of every virtue at the testing point."

3. HERE'S THE QUESTION: What is it that we can expect in a world that has gone wrong?

I. WE CAN EXPECT TO BE FALSELY ACCUSED

A. FALSE ACCUSTATIONS AGAINST PAUL

1. *False Accusation #1* - That Paul hated the Jewish people.

a) Vs 21:26

1) Vs 26

2) Cf. 19:8-10

3) Ephesians 2:1ff

b) Vs 27

c) Vs 28

1) "teaching everyone, everywhere" (all the time)

2) "against the people (Jews)"

2. *False Accusation #2* - That Paul Hated the Law

a) Vs 28b

b) Pentecost was the "festival of the harvest" and was believed to be the exact same time that Moses gave the Law. 50 days after Passover.

c) Paul was not against the Law!!!

1) *Romans 3:19-20* Wow!!!

3. False Accusation #3 - That Paul Hated the Temple

a) Vs 28c-29

B. PHYSICAL ACTIONS AGAINST PAUL

1. Vs 30a

a) "Then the whole city was stirred up"

2. Vs 30b

a) "They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple"

3. Vs 31-32

a) "Tribune" - would be like the chief captain. The head of a thousand.

b) "Centurions" - centurion (*singular*) is the head of 100. Centurions = plural

4. Vs 33-36

5. Dr. Al Mohler

"There is an awareness, that we are going to have to be ready now **for a very long faithfulness; a very long obedience; that is going to be very costly,** but is also going to be a great opportunity to point people to the City of God, to point them to the Gospel, while everything is falling apart around us."

"There are also other urgencies; the **religious liberty court challenges** are going to be massive."

"The other daunting task is that **we are losing our young people,** not because they don't know what we believe, but they don't know why we believe what we believe. **Because they are not deeply grounded in a Biblical World View that comes out of our relationship with Christ.**"

"What kind of conviction does it take to withstand a full cultural onslaught!!!"

"We really know what we believe, when what we believe would hold under persecution."

"If we are not grounding the Church in the truth of what God's Word reveals, that the church can hold those truths under persecution, then we're not teaching, we're not preaching, and that is of the greatest urgency."

6. What's a Christian Worldview? By Del Tackett

A recent nationwide survey completed by the Barna Research Group determined that only 4 percent of Americans had a "biblical" worldview. When George Barna, who has researched cultural trends and the Christian Church since 1984, looked at the "born again" believers in America, the results were a dismal 9 percent.

Barna's survey also connected an individual's worldview with his or her moral beliefs and actions. Barna says, "*Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life.*"

1. What's a worldview?

A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. "[It's] any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world," says **David Noebel**, author of *Understanding the Times*.

For example, a 2-year-old believes he's the center of his world, a secular humanist believes that the material world is all that exists, and a Buddhist believes he can be liberated from suffering by self-purification.

Someone with a biblical worldview believes his primary reason for existence is to love and serve God.

Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview.

A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action.

Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art and social order — everything.

For example, let's suppose you have bought the idea that beauty is in the eye of the beholder (*secular relative truth*) as opposed to beauty as defined by God's purity and creativity (*absolute truth*). Then any art piece, no matter how vulgar or abstract, would be considered "art," a creation of beauty.

2. What's a biblical worldview?

A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do. That means, for instance, you take seriously the mandate in **Romans 13** to honor the governing authorities by researching the candidates and issues, making voting a priority.

Do you have a biblical worldview?

Answer the following questions, based on claims found in the Bible and which George Barna used in his survey:

- Do absolute moral truths exist?
 - Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?
 - Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
 - Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?
 - Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?
 - Is Satan real?
 - Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?
 - Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?
- Did you answer yes to these? Only 9 percent of "born again" believers did.

But what's more important than your yes to these questions is whether your life shows it. Granted, we are all sinners and fall short, but most of our gut reactions will reflect what we deep-down, honest-to-goodness believe to be real and true.

3. How does a biblical worldview get diluted?

Here is the big problem. Nonbiblical worldview ideas don't just sit in a book somewhere waiting for people to examine them. They bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books and academia.

Because we live in a selfish, fallen world, these ideas seductively appeal to the desires of our flesh, and we often end up incorporating them into our personal worldview. Sadly, we often do this without even knowing it.

For example, most Christians would agree with **1 Thessalonians 4:3** and other Scriptures that command us to avoid sexual immorality, but how often do Christians fall into lust or premarital and extramarital sexual sin?

Is it simply because they are weak when tempted, or did it begin much earlier, with the seductive lies from our sexualized society?

4. Why does a biblical worldview matter?

If we don't really believe the truth of God and live it, then our witness will be confusing and misleading. Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world. Through the media and other influences, the secularized American view of history, law, politics, science, God and man affects our thinking more than we realize. We then are taken "*captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ*" (**Colossians 2:8**).

However, by diligently learning, applying and trusting God's truths in every area of our lives — whether it's watching a movie, communicating with our spouses, raising our children or working at the office — we can begin to develop a deep comprehensive faith that will stand against the unrelenting tide of our culture's nonbiblical ideas. If we capture and embrace more of God's worldview and trust it with unwavering faith, then we begin to make the right decisions and form the appropriate responses to questions on abortion, same sex marriage, cloning, stem-cell research and even media choices. Because, in the end, it is our decisions and actions that reveal what we really believe.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (**Romans 12:2**).

II. WE CAN EXPECT TO STILL LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY

A. HE WAS RESPECTFUL

1. Vs 37

B. HE WAS HONEST

1. Vs 37b-39a

C. HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY

1. Vs 39b-22:1