

# Acts 21:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

## Analysis

**All the city was moved** (ἐκινήθη ἡ πόλις, ekinethe he polis)—The verb 'moved' suggests violent agitation, like an earthquake shaking a city. The mob's fury stemmed from false accusations that Paul brought Gentiles into the temple's inner courts (v. 28-29), a capital offense punishable by death even for Roman citizens. **They took Paul, and drew him out of the temple**—The Greek heilkusan (dragged) implies violent force. Removing Paul before killing him prevented temple defilement by bloodshed, showing the mob's twisted priorities.

**Forthwith the doors were shut**—Temple Levites immediately closed the massive gates separating the Court of the Gentiles from the inner courts, preventing further ritual defilement. Ironically, those claiming zeal for the temple's purity were attempting murder, violating the sixth commandment of the very law they professed to defend.

## Historical Context

Jerusalem during feast times swelled to massive crowds, creating volatile conditions. The temple police (Levites) had authority to maintain order and shut gates. The riot occurred in the Court of the Gentiles, the outermost temple area. Roman soldiers stationed in the Fortress Antonia overlooking the temple courts would have seen the disturbance.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can religious zeal become divorced from genuine righteousness and love?
2. When have you witnessed people defending 'truth' through methods that contradict the gospel itself?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐκινήθη τε ἡ πόλις ὅλη καὶ ἐγένετο συνδρομὴ τοῦ  
was moved And G3588 the city all and ran together G4890 G3588  
G2795 G5037 G4172 G3650 G2532 G1096

λαοῦ καὶ ἐπιλαβόμενοι τοῦ Παύλου εἱλκού αὐτὸν  
the people and they took G3588 Paul and drew him  
G2992 G2532 G1949 G3972 G1670 G846

ἔξω τοῦ ἱεροῦ καὶ εὐθέως ἐκλείσθησαν αἱ θύραι  
out of G3588 the temple and forthwith were shut G3588 the doors  
G1854 G2411 G2532 G2112 G2808 G2374

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 26:21** (Temple): For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

**2 Corinthians 11:26** (Parallel theme): In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in

perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

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