

Acts 21:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

Analysis

The chief captain's immediate action - binding Paul with 'two chains' - fulfilled Agabus's prophecy (Acts 21:11) precisely. His inquiry 'who he was, and what he had done' shows the Romans' concern for order over justice. The Jews' confused responses revealed their accusations were emotional rather than factual, demonstrating how religious rage often lacks substantive foundation.

Historical Context

Roman military procedure required securing prisoners with chains to soldiers on each side. The captain's inability to get consistent answers reflects the chaotic nature of mob accusations compared to formal legal proceedings.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when bound by circumstances beyond your control, recognizing God's sovereignty in the restriction?

2. What does the mob's confused accusations teach about opposition based on emotion rather than reason?

Interlinear Text

τότε	έγγισας	ό	χιλίαρχος	έπελάβετο	αύτοῦ	καὶ
Then	came near	G3588	the chief captain	and took	him	and
G5119	G1448		G5506	G1949	G846	G2532
ἐκέλευσεν	δεθῆναι		ἀλύσεσιν	δυσίν	καὶ	ἐπυνθάνετο
commanded	him to be bound with		chains	two	and	demanded
G2753	G1210		G254	G1417	G2532	G4441
τί	ἄν	εἴη	καὶ	τί	ἐστιν	πεποιηκώς
what	he was	G1498	and	what	he had	done
G5101	G302		G2532	G5101	G2076	G4160

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Acts 21:11 (Parallel theme): And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

Acts 20:23 (Parallel theme): Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

Acts 12:6 (Parallel theme): And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Acts 22:29 (Parallel theme): Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

Acts 28:20 (Parallel theme): For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

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