

Acts 21:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

Analysis

Some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude—The confused mob shouted contradictory accusations, revealing their riot was fueled by passion rather than reasoned justice. This chaotic scene recalls Pilate's trial of Jesus, where crowds manipulated by leaders demanded crucifixion without clear charges. **When he could not know the certainty for the tumult** (θόρυβος, thorubos, uproar)—The Greek emphasizes confused noise preventing rational investigation.

He commanded him to be carried into the castle—The Roman fortress (παρεμβολή, parembolē, military camp) provided security. Lysias's decision to protect Paul rather than release him to the mob demonstrates Roman law's commitment to proper legal process, contrasting with the lawless crowd. God's providence again used Rome's judicial system to preserve Paul for witness before governors, kings, and ultimately Caesar.

Historical Context

Roman military procedure required investigation before punishment. The tribune's confusion was understandable—he initially thought Paul was an Egyptian insurrectionist (v. 38). The castle (Fortress Antonia) served as interrogation center and prison. This began Paul's protective custody that would eventually take him to Rome.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when falsely accused or when truth is drowned out by emotional crowds?
2. What does God's use of Roman legal protection teach about His providential care through imperfect institutions?

Interlinear Text

ἄλλο	δὲ	ἄλλο	τι	ἐβόων	ἐν	τῷ	ὄχλῳ	μὴ
some	And	some	one thing	cried	among	G3588	the multitude	not
G243	G1161	G243	G5100	G994	G1722		G3793	G3361
δυναμένος	δὲ	γινῶναι	τὸ	ἀσφαλές	διὰ	τὸν	θόρυβον	
when he could	And	know	G3588	the certainty	for	G3588	the tumult	
G1410	G1161	G1097		G804	G1223		G2351	
ἐκέλευσεν	ἄγεσθαι	αὐτὸν	εἰς	τὴν	παρεμβολήν			
he commanded	to be carried	him	into	G3588	the castle			
G2753	G71	G846	G1519		G3925			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:10 (Parallel theme): And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.

Acts 19:32 (Parallel theme): Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

Acts 23:16 (Parallel theme): And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

Acts 22:24 (Parallel theme): The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him.

Acts 21:37 (Parallel theme): And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek?

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