

# Acts 22:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,

## Analysis

---

**They cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air**—The crowd's violent reaction to Paul's testimony shows extreme rage escalating to mob hysteria. The Greek *riptounton* (cast off) suggests violent throwing, while *ballonton* (throwing dust) was an ancient Near Eastern expression of outrage and curse-calling. This physical demonstration paralleled their verbal assault, expressing abhorrence demanding divine judgment. When Paul mentioned God's commission to the Gentiles (v. 21), Jewish nationalism erupted into uncontrollable fury, revealing how deeply ethnic pride had corrupted covenant understanding.

## Historical Context

---

This occurred in Jerusalem circa AD 57-58 during Paul's arrest in the temple precincts. The Roman tribune had allowed Paul to address the crowd from the Antonia Fortress stairs. The mob's fury specifically triggered at Paul's claim that God sent him to the Gentiles, violating their exclusivist theology.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. How does ethnic or religious pride in your own community obscure God's universal grace?
2. What truths about the gospel provoke the strongest opposition in your cultural context?

## Interlinear Text

---

κραυγαζόντων	δὲ	αὐτῶν	καὶ	ρίπτουντων	τὰ	ἱμάτια
as they cried out	And	G846	and	cast off	G3588	their clothes
G2905	G1161		G2532	G4495		G2440
καὶ	κονιορτὸν	βαλλόντων	εἰς	τὸν	ἀέρα	
and	dust	threw	into	G3588	the air	
G2532	G2868	G906	G1519		G109	

## Additional Cross-References

---

**2 Samuel 16:13** (Parallel theme): And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.