

# 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

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**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 koniorton (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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

## Study Questions

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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

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κραυγαζόντων δὲ αὐτῶν καὶ ῥιπτούντων τὰ ιμάτια  
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

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**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.

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