

# Acts 24:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me.

## Analysis

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Paul's devastating point - his real accusers aren't present - exposes the prosecution's weakness. Under Roman law, accusers must face the accused and prove charges. The Asian Jews who actually started the riot were absent, suggesting they couldn't substantiate their accusations. This procedural failure should have resulted in case dismissal under proper Roman jurisprudence.

## Historical Context

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Roman law required accusers' presence to face cross-examination. Their absence violated proper procedure and suggested the charges couldn't withstand scrutiny. Felix's failure to dismiss the case revealed corruption over justice.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you wisely point out procedural failures when they reveal accusers' inability to prove their case?

2. What does this teach about standing on proper legal procedures when they protect truth and justice?

## Interlinear Text

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οὖς δεῖ ἐπὶ σοῦ παρεῖναι καὶ κατηγορεῖν εἴ τι  
Who ought before thee to have been here and object G1487 G5100  
G3739 G1163 G1909 G4675 G3918 G2532 G2723

ἔχοιεν πρὸς μέ  
they had against me  
G2192 G4314 G3165

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 23:30** (Parallel theme): And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell.

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