

Acts 24:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

Analysis

Tertullus's three accusations - pestilent fellow, mover of sedition, ringleader of Nazarenes - were calculated to alarm Roman authorities. Calling Christianity a 'sect' (Greek 'hairesis,' heresy) and Paul its ringleader painted him as politically dangerous. The charge of sedition 'among all the Jews throughout the world' was utterly false but strategically crafted to threaten Roman interests in maintaining peace.

Historical Context

Rome deeply feared popular movements that could threaten imperial stability. Tertullus's accusations deliberately conflated religious leadership with political sedition, knowing Rome would take such charges seriously.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when your faith is deliberately mischaracterized as politically dangerous or socially harmful?
2. What does this teach about how gospel truth threatens both religious and political establishments?

Interlinear Text

εὑρόντες γὰρ τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον λοιμὸν καὶ
we have found For G3588 man this a pestilent fellow and
G2147 G1063 G435 G5126 G3061 G2532

κινοῦντα στάσιν πᾶσιν τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις τοῖς κατὰ
a mover of sedition among all G3588 the Jews G3588 throughout
G2795 G4714 G3956 G2453 G2596

τὴν οἰκουμένην πρωτοστάτην τε τῆς τῶν Ναζωραίων
G3588 the world a ringleader and G3588 G3588 of the Nazarenes
G3625 G4414 G5037 G3480

αἱρέσεως
of the sect
G139

Additional Cross-References

Acts 28:22 (Parallel theme): But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

Acts 24:14 (Parallel theme): But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

Acts 15:5 (Parallel theme): But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Acts 26:5 (Parallel theme): Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Acts 21:28 (Parallel theme): Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

Acts 5:17 (Parallel theme): Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

Luke 23:2 (Parallel theme): And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

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