

The Church on Mission

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." Acts 1:8

Good News Baptist Church
AM Message

Pastor John Woodford
May 31, 2020

HANDLING REJECTION OF YOUR WITNESS

Acts 21:27-40

Context: Paul has worked hard to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost. When he arrives, James and the pastoral leadership in the Jerusalem area know Paul is a prime candidate to be falsely judged by the council (v. 22) for being anti-Mosaic Law and anti-Jewish (Acts 21:20, 21, 28). As Paul is in the temple, being sensitive to honor a Jewish custom, a riot breaks out.

God wants us to face rejection's suffering and injustices with a blameless innocence and a commitment to the gospel.

Face Rejection's Suffering:

- I. With a blameless innocence, while accused in a war against God (Acts 21:26-29; 1 Peter 3:17).
 - *God is not impressed with us being strong-willed and independent. God wants our suffering not to be provoked by our sin but because of the world's aversion to our gospel witness. Our suffering is under God's control and is valuable to God for eternity, if it was done to honor Him.*
 - *When you and I encounter inequalities, we have the choice to acknowledge the blessing of God and to have a deep joy by looking at life through God's yes.*

- II. Knowing people, by nature, get emotionally agitated and violent (Acts 21:30, 31, 33-36).
 - *People are easily insulted over religious sensitivities, so build a bridge from their religious view to what they need in the gospel. Don't add to the offense of the Gospel but take people to the gospel that needs to disturb them from their sin.*

III. Aware of God's control (Acts 21:31-34).

- *Our lives are in God's hands. Our days are numbered, and His thoughts toward us are good, so trust Him (Psalm 139).*
- *Threats to us are an opportunity for us to take negative experiences and boldly confront the world with the gospel. God gives strength to redeem bad circumstances for Him.*

IV. By faith proceed with polite questions to get the gospel out (Acts 21:37-40).

- *Don't demand your rights when you can be patient, tender, and respectful with your authorities and with those who resist your witness for Christ.*