

Questions for Reflection and Discussion
Acts 21:17-36
A Case of Mistaken Identity

Digging In

1. **Read Ac 21:17-19.** How were Paul and his companions received by the brothers in Jerusalem?
2. When Paul met with James and all the elders, how did he describe his ministry?
3. **Read vss. 20-22.** James and the elders told Paul about a serious problem caused by Paul's arrival in Jerusalem. What was it?
4. Were the rumors true? Explain.
5. **Read vss. 23-25.** What did they suggest Paul should do to deal with this misunderstanding? (In v. 25 they are referring to the decision of the Jerusalem Council in Ac 15:28-29.)
6. What was Paul's response. (v. 26)
7. **Read vss. 27-29.** Was their plan successful? Explain.
8. How did the Jews' false assumptions lead to a case of mistaken identity?
9. **Read vss. 30-32.** Summarize what happened in these verses.
10. **Read vss. 33-35.** How did this fulfill Agabus' prophecy in 21:11?
11. How had the Holy Spirit prepared Paul for these difficulties? (see 20:23-24)



Getting Personal

- How was Paul's willingness to go along with the plan of the elders an example of the principles he teaches in 1 Cor 9:19-23?
- How can we apply the principles of 1 Cor 9:19-23 without compromising core Christian convictions?
- Give some examples of how God might call us to adjust our behavior for the sake of the gospel today.
- Can you think of a situation in which God might want you personally to adjust your behavior for the sake of the gospel?