

Sermon Notes

Dr. Greg Ammons, Senior Pastor

THE AGE OF OUTRAGE “The Crowd and The Christian” Acts 24:1-21 (ESV)

A. The Crowd's Accusations

1. Believers in Jesus Are a Pest (v 5)
2. Believers in Jesus Are the Troublemakers (v 5)
3. Harsh Titles Are Given to Believers in Jesus (v 5)
4. Untruths Are Told of Believers (v 6)
5. The Crowd Is Always Right (v 9)

B. The Christian's Response

1. Respond in the Right Spirit (v 10)
2. Be Guilty of Following Jesus and Scriptural Teaching (v 14)
3. Do Not Be Afraid to Address the Controversial Topics (v 15; 21)
4. Live Before God and Humanity With a Clear Conscience (v 16)
5. Deal With Issues Personally, Not Veiled (v 19)

Acts 24:1-21 (ESV)

And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul. ²And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying: “Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, ³in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. ⁴But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. ⁵For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him. ⁸By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.” ⁹The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so. ¹⁰And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: “Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. ¹¹You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, ¹²and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. ¹³Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. ¹⁴But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, ¹⁵having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. ¹⁶So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. ¹⁷Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. ¹⁸While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— ¹⁹they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. ²⁰Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, ²¹other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’”