



Is It Lawful?

The Book of Acts

Midweek Sermon

Pastor Carl Toti

December 9, 2020

Acts 22:21-23 (NLT)

21 "But the Lord said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles!'" 22 The crowd listened until Paul said that word. Then they all began to shout, "Away with such a fellow! He isn't fit to live!" 23 They yelled, threw off their coats, and tossed handfuls of dust into the air.

Truth Hurts Before It Heals

1. The Day Jesus Drove Many Away

John 6:66 (CEV)

66 Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him.

2. The Day the Athenians Laughed at Paul

Acts 17:32 (CEV)

32 As soon as the people heard Paul say that a man had been raised from death, some of them started laughing. Others said, "We will hear you talk about this some other time."

3. The Crowd Turns on Paul

Acts 22:22 (NLT)

22 The crowd listened until Paul said that word. Then they all began to shout, "Away with such a fellow! He isn't fit to live!"

Acts 22:24-30 (NLT)

24 The commander brought Paul inside and ordered him lashed with whips to make him confess his crime. He wanted to find out why the crowd had become so furious. 25 When they tied Paul down to lash him, Paul said to the officer standing there, "Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried?" 26 When the officer heard this, he went to the commander and asked, "What are you doing? This man is a Roman citizen!" 27 So the commander went over and asked Paul, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I certainly am," Paul replied. 28 "I am, too," the commander muttered, "and it cost me plenty!" Paul answered, "But I am a citizen by birth!" 29 The soldiers who were about to interrogate Paul quickly withdrew when they heard he was a Roman citizen, and the commander was frightened because he had ordered him bound and whipped. 30 The next day the commander ordered the leading priests into session with the Jewish high council. He wanted to find out what the trouble was all about, so he released Paul to have him stand before them.

Lessons from Paul's Example

1. Leaders of change usually become _____.
2. At face value, people seem kind and good-natured, but _____.
3. Everyone has unmet wants and _____.

ANSWERS:

1. MARTYRS
2. BEWARE
3. NEEDS