

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 21 27-40



He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers;
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
Psalm 91:4

Praising:

Be our strength in hours of
weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure,
danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Reading:

Acts 21:27-40
The locals turn hostile

Paul's purification turns out to be a preparation for a whole new spiritual onslaught. The Jews from Asia basically charge Paul with assaulting Judaism. After a disturbance in the temple and a serious attempt outside the temple to kill Paul, the Roman authorities intervene. They assume Paul is being lynched for some criminal offence and so they arrest and bind him. Unable to establish exactly what Paul has

been accused of, the anger and force of the crowd is such that the soldiers have to carry the apostle to the steps of the barracks. Just in time, Paul catches the ear of the tribune and the soldiers realise they have mistaken him for a rabble-rousing Egyptian pseudo-Messiah. Paul asserts his status as a Jew and a citizen, and in return is afforded the opportunity to address the crowds – in Hebrew.

Listening:

Praying:

Prepare me Lord for those times when people slander me for following you

- that I may ride out the hurt and the pain as Christ rode it out for me
- that I may defend myself in humility and gentleness, acknowledging my sin as I go
- that I may prove myself faithful, trusting and full of hope, right to the end

Father: as your followers have discovered from the start, attacks will come. So long as I know that you are near, that you will give me words to say, and that your truth will be victorious. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 27 June 2016