

TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
ACTS CH22:22 - 30

What does Natural justice mean?

“It is easier to believe a lie that one has heard a thousand times than to believe a fact that one has never heard before.” Robert Lynd (An Irish writer) Is it easier to believe a lie over truth? How much damage can lies do? How do we work out the truth from lies? When accusations are made against someone, what should we do? Ever heard of natural justice? It refers to **the basic fundamental principles of being treated fairly**. These principles include the duty to give someone a fair hearing; the duty to ensure that the matter is decided by someone who is impartial; and the duty to allow an appeal against a decision. In English Law, natural justice is technical terminology for the rule against bias and the right to a fair hearing. While the term natural justice is often retained as a general concept, it has largely been replaced and extended by the general "duty to act fairly". [Wikipedia](#)



RIOTING RESUMES, PAUL IS RESCUED! v22-24

John Stott says “So far Luke has portrayed his hero on the offensive, taking bold initiatives under the leading of the Holy Spirit to evangelize most of Asia and Greece. But when Paul arrived in Jerusalem, his

whole career abruptly changed. He was assaulted, arrested, bound and brought to trial. He found himself on the defensive. Following his three epic missionary journeys Luke describes the five trials he had to endure. The first was before a Jewish crowd at the Northwest corner of the Temple area (**22:1**), the second before the Supreme Jewish Council in Jerusalem (**23:1**), the third and fourth in Caesarea before Felix and Festus, who succeeded one another as the procurator of Judea (**24:1; 25:1**), and the fifth, also in Caesarea, before King Herod Agrippa 11 (**26:1**). ***These five trials, including in each case Paul's defence speech, together with the circumstances of his arrest (21:18), take up six chapters in our Bibles and nearly 200 verses.***” (Cited in ***John Stott's Commentary on Acts pg 335***)

The crowd had listened with approval to Paul's account of his Jewish background and with interest to his amazing conversion story, but as his remarks about being called to Gentiles makes their blood boil. Paul is now interrupted by the crowd, there is no longer “a great hush” Ch21:40, or the Jews becoming “even more quiet” Ch22:2, now they raise their voices loudly and demand the death sentence! Why? In the eyes of the Jews of the day, to “proselytise” (the process of a Gentile becoming a Jew) was absolutely fine! But to evangelise (the process whereby a Jew/Gentile could become a Christian through evangelism) was abhorrent (disgusting/loathing) to them!! Why/ ***IT WAS TANTAMOUNT TO SAYING THAT THE JEWS AND GENTILES WERE NOW EQUAL IN THEIR ACCESS TO GOD BECAUSE OF JESUS OF NAZARETH!***

V23 – With their shouting, throwing off of their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, we recall back in Ch7:57 + Ch14:14 that shouting and the tearing of clothes in Ch14:14 + Ch18:6 and the shaking off the dust off ones feet in Ch13:51, was a gesture of warning of disassociation from those who oppose the will of God!

As the situation is continuing to deteriorate the Tribune orders that Paul be taken into the Barracks for his protection as in Ch21:34, as he has no idea as to what is being said, because Paul and the crowd are talking Hebrew!. To try and find out the “truth” and what is going on, the Tribune orders that Paul be flogged, meaning “scourged”, this scourging (Latin – flagellum) “was a ***fearful instrument of torture, consisting of leather thongs, weighted with rough pieces of metal or bone, and attached to a stout wooden handle***” (Cited in John Stotts Commentary on Acts, pg349). This was a typical way of extracting information from prisoners, and could easily cause death or severe

disability if survived!

ROMAN CITIZENSHIP REVEALED, PAUL IS RESCUED ! v25 - 29

How would Paul be rescued from this? Just before this potential life-threatening beating takes place, Paul announces that he is a Roman Citizen. Luke reveals to us that Paul never wanted to misuse or take advantage of his Roman Citizenship, but rather chooses to use it after being beaten and or imprisoned (Ch16:37), but when facing a dire situation! ***Paul, through God's grace, is fully part as a Christian of both the Jewish and Roman worlds. It is highly likely that Paul's father obtained "Roman Citizenship" through serving the Roman Empire in some noble faithful way, and that status of privilege had been passed on to Paul as his son!***

On hearing this, the Roman Centurion, goes back to the Tribune and informs him of what Paul has disclosed. The Tribune had paid a huge amount of money, presumably under Emperor Claudius (Reigned 41 – 54 A.D.), hence his first name (Ch23:26), and knows that torturing a Roman citizen before a trial was against Roman Law, and one would be severely punished for doing so.

REAL REASON, PAUL IS RESCUED! v30

The Tribune (mentioned in v24, 26, 27, 28, 29 + 30) is so determined to find "truth", remember when he tried to find the facts in Ch21:34 by asking the crowd, but to no avail! Remember here in v24-29, he planned to have Paul scourged to find out the truth, but to no avail, as Paul revealed that he was a Roman Citizen from birth! So, with the authority that he has as Tribune, he orders:

1. The chief Priests to attend a hearing in his presence!
2. The Sanhedrin to attend a hearing in his presence!
3. The prisoner Paul, to be unbound, and to attend a hearing in his presence!

The Tribune is so determined to find "truth" that he organises a hearing in his presence with the Jewish authorities of the day to be present with Paul, so that he can get to the bottom of things! ***What a great encouragement to our non-Christian friends and family, God is revealing to you how you can get to the bottom of Christianity, by hearing from those who are saved! Invite them to tell your testimony!***

APPLICATION

Let's share testimonies at Connect!