

Acts 21:17-40; 22; 23

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

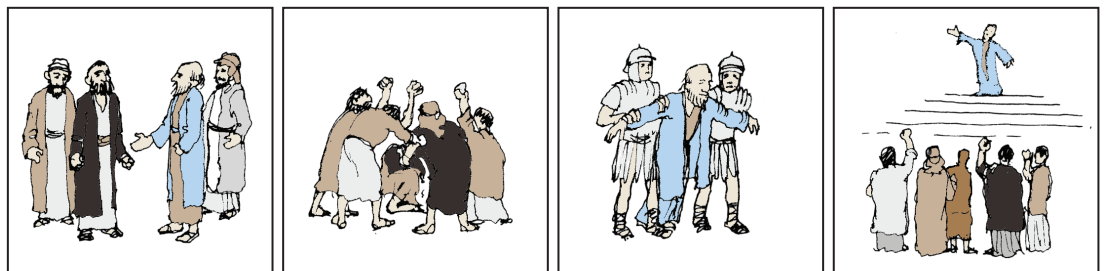
Readings this week:

S Romans 15:23-33
M Acts 21:27-40
T Acts 22:1-21
W Acts 22:22-30
Th Acts 23:1-11
F Acts 23:12-22
S Acts 23:23-35

In this lesson we will find out about Paul's arrest. There is more to the story though: we can look at what motivated the people around him, and how people can get carried away with doing something.

Look at these passages (you may like to look at one per group). Identify what is happening in each picture and summarise what has happened.

Acts 21:17-26, 27-32, 33-40



Look at Paul's speech in Acts 22:1-21, then look through the rest of the chapter to find the answers to these questions:

What was the crowd's reaction to Paul's speech?

What do you think upset them most?

What did the commander do?

How did Paul avoid being flogged?

How did the commander feel when he learned Paul was a Roman citizen?

What did the commander arrange the next day?

In Acts 22, who is being carried along by the crowd?

When we talk of someone being or getting carried away we don't literally mean they are carried off. What does the phrase mean?

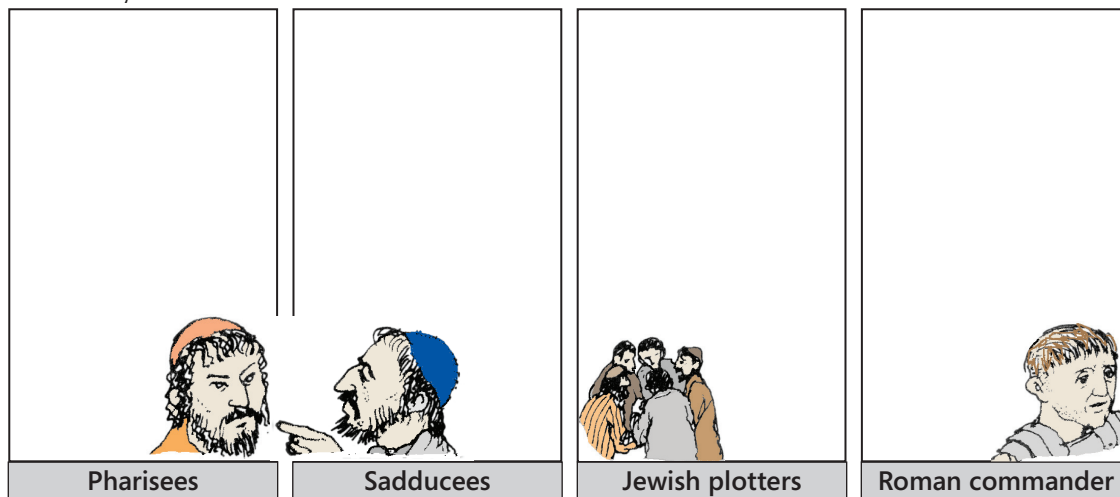
What does being carried away by something imply about the motives or the responsibility of the person who has got carried away?

Is being carried away something which is pre-planned?

Now look at these passages, and identify which picture goes with each one.



What do you think were the motives behind the actions of each of these groups?
Discuss your ideas then write a list for each one.



What can we be carried away by?

Do you think you would ever be carried along and end up doing something you thought was wrong?

Make a list of strategies to try to avoid being carried along by things.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, his thorough knowledge of the Bible helped him to avoid succumbing to the temptations. His attitude to life and his motivation meant he had the strength to do the right thing.

It's the same when we are at risk of being carried along by a crowd: if our underlying attitudes are right and we have built up a good basis for doing right, then we will have more strength to stand our ground.

Digging Deeper

The Sanhedrin

The Sanhedrin was the highest Jewish court in New Testament times. It had 70 elders who had to be Jewish and of noble descent, and a High Priest who was the president. They sat in a semi circle with their disciples behind them. In the Authorised Version it is called the Council.

Look at these verses to see who had connections with the Sanhedrin and why. And, if it tells us, which other important people were there.

Matthew 26:57-66, John 18:12-14

Acts 4:5-7, 15

Acts 5:21, 27-28, 34, 41

Acts 6:12-7:1, 54-57

Acts 22:4-5

Ask
God to
give you the
determination to
stand up for what is
right and not to be
influenced by
others.