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THE APOSTLE PAUL LESSON 45

LAST TRIP TO JERUSALEM – PART 3

FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

The chief captain of Jerusalem's Roman soldiers desired to know why the mob of Jews cried out against Paul. Such disturbances could not be allowed. (Acts 22:24-30.)

At the captain's castle, Paul was bound up with thongs as they prepared to interrogate him under a flogging by whips. Before the flogging started, Paul asked the centurion in charge in verse 25, ***"Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and un-condemned?"***

Upon hearing about this, the captain cautioned the centurion against the flogging. The centurion interrogated Paul regarding his citizenship and whether had he purchased his Roman citizenship (and therefore his freedom) with a large sum of money as the centurion had done.

Paul replied that he was born free as a natural citizen of Rome (a better birthright), so they left off their plans to flog him. The chief captain was fearful because he was at fault for illegally imprisoning a Roman citizen, so the next morning Paul was released and made to appear in front of the Sanhedrin since this was obviously a religious matter and not a civil one.

The mistake of the chief captain of the Roman guard seems to be that he assumed Paul was involved in some illegal activity and that he must beat the truth out of him. Such assumptions can cause a lot of trouble. Do not assume you know the "obvious truth." Investigate facts to uncover the truth, and you will save yourself and others some grief.

Remember how "assume" is spelled: ASS-U-ME Do not make one of yourself.