

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**SERMON - Six Things the Lord Hates Plus 1 (Part 4B)**  
**#7 One Who Sows Discord Among Brethren**  
**Acts 21:30–36 and Prov 6:16-19**  
**6/10/2001**  
**Updated 11/2018**

**Acts 21:30–36 (NKJV) <sup>30</sup> And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. <sup>31</sup> Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. <sup>32</sup> He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. <sup>33</sup> Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded *him* to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done. <sup>34</sup> And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another. So when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks. <sup>35</sup> When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. <sup>36</sup> For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, “Away with him!”**

Prov 6:16-19 16        These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ... **(5) feet that are swift in running to evil, ... (7) and one who sows discord among brethren.** NKJ)

We pick back up with the mob action in the temple at Jerusalem against Paul. Paul has been falsely accused of violating the temple law by bringing in a Greek, all without substantiated proof. We see and hear a lot of that today in 2018. Charges are made in high offices and all are without any proof. This type of activity falls under the charge of **(2) a lying tongue, (4) A heart that devises wicked plans and (6) A false witness who speaks lies.**

Today in 2018 lying has become the new normal. It has become acceptable and almost expected by our leaders. Christians must remember that God hates a lying tongue. One person who we believe has told a lie does not justify another person doing the same. The number of lies does not matter. I ask the question, “how many lies do you have to tell to be called a liar”?

We pick up at verse 33.

**V33 Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done.**

As the commander came into the situation, he could tell that Paul was the focal point of the disturbance. Without ascertaining the problem, he quickly had Paul put into double chains. That means he had chains on his legs and perhaps chains on his wrist.

This is the same method that is used today when the authorities come up on trouble. They do not know what it's all about so they first stop the violence then ascertain the problem. It may not be that they think we are guilty it could be for the benefit of our protection.

As parents we may do the same thing. First, we stop the violence, then get to the bottom of the dispute.

This is what the commander did. Then he asked the question, “what was this all about.”

**V34 And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks.**

The response of the crowd was very interesting. This is what so often happens when we're so quick to rush to judgement and act upon incomplete or false information. The commander was unable to get any consistent story about what was going on.

The mob did not know the truth there for many told a lie. It is simple if you do not know then do not say you do. For saying you do know and you know you do not know is an outright lie.

We do this today. How many of you have heard or seen people who were holding grudges for years and years and when asked why they had a grudge, they can't really remember what it was all about. Worse, there are some that hold lifetime grudges based on what someone else has told them.

This type of mentality is not limited to the citizens. I believe some of this existed in the awful beating of Rodney King that took place in Los Angeles. One policeman may have told a partial story or incorrect story to the other policeman who came later just reacted supporting the first policemen. I'm not saying that he was innocent but what I can say with confidence, the level of retaliation by the policeman did not warrant whenever the offense was that he had done.

This is why we parents try to warn our children to be careful of the company they keep because if one person does something wrong in your group and the authorities arrive, they will assume that all of you are guilty. It is always a good practice never to argue with any man that has a gun and the authority.

**V35 When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob.**

Now the mob begins to increase its violence in spite of the presence of the Roman soldiers. The soldiers had to carry Paul up the stairs because of the mob.

Let me say again that the majority of this mob did not even know what Paul had done. But someone had **(7) sown discord among brethren**

**THE MOB WAS STIRRED AGAINST JESUS.**

The same thing took place in regard to the crucifixion of Christ. Our scripture tells us that there were those walking among the crowd telling the crowd to ask for Barabbas as opposed to Jesus.

*Mark 15:9-11* 9 "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. **11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.** NIV

**V36 For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!"**

These few men who could not act on their own have now stir it up the entire city. And they began to cry, "away with him, away with him. The NLT Bible says it this way.

*Acts 21:36 (NLT)* <sup>36</sup> And the crowd followed behind, shouting, "Kill him, kill him!"

The same thing was done with our Lord Jesus Christ. The crowd, the same crowd that was crying out, hosanna, hosanna on that Palm Sunday, they were now crying out to Pilate to "crucify him, crucify him.

We should not be too quick to follow without fully understanding that which you are responding to. Whether it is a religious leader, a political leader, or just a friend. When in doubt seek to follow God and Christ.

As we study the Bible, God will give us the wisdom that we need to exercise the proper discernment in our decision-making process

This is why am opposed to single issue voting. I did not talk about politics or tell you how vote. What I would say to you is do not cast your vote based upon a single issue that happens to be the passion of a small group or organization.

Measure how your leader or leaders measure up to the 6+1 things God hates.

### **HOW CAN WE CAUSE DISCORD?**

1. When we feel we must prove that we are right (our Point)
2. When we "Dis" another.
3. When we Spread rumors
4. When we Listen to rumors about someone.
5. Be unforgiving

*Matt 6:14-15 14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. NIV*

### **THE OPPOSITE OF DISCORD IS UNITY. HOW CAN WE SHOW UNITY?**

1. Do not argue over the non-essential things
2. Agree to disagree
3. Live at peace with all men as much as possible.

*Heb 12:14-15 14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. NIV*

4. Help someone

### **HOW TO KEEP FROM RUNNING TO EVIL?**

1. Stay focused on your own home and affairs.
2. Let the involved parties resolve the issue.
3. Choose your friends well.
4. Children listen to your parents
5. Parents listen to God
6. Change your attitude about your enemies.

### **CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE.** Didn't he say the following?

*Matthew 5:39-42 (NKJV) <sup>39</sup> But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. <sup>40</sup> If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. <sup>41</sup> And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. <sup>42</sup> Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

On the cross Jesus said;

*Luke 23:33-34 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." NIV*

We all want some level of what we call justice when we feel we are harmed. But in fact, it is really persecution or revenge we want.

*Rom 12:19-21 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. NIV*

We were enemies of God.

*Rom 5:9-10 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! NIV*

*Rom 5:7-8* 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**  
*NIV*

Message Scripture: **Acts 21:30–36**, *Prov 6:16-19*, *Matt 6:14-15*, *Heb 12:14-15*, *Matthew 5:39–42*, *Luke 23:33-34*,  
*Rom 12:19-21*, *Rom 5:9-10*, *Rom 5:7-8* .

AMEN