

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**SERMON - Six Things the Lord Hates Plus 1 (Part 4A)**  
**#5 Feet That Are Swift in Running to Evil**  
**Prov 6:16-19**  
**6/10/2001 & Acts 21:27-32**  
**Updated 11/2018**

Acts 21:27-32 (NKJV) <sup>27</sup> Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, <sup>28</sup> crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." <sup>29</sup> (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) <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.

Prov 6:16-19 16 These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 (1) A proud look, (2) a lying tongue, (3) hands that shed innocent blood, 18 (4) A heart that devises wicked plans, (5) **feet that are swift in running to evil**, 19 (6) A false witness who speaks lies, (7) **and one who sows discord among brethren.** NKJ)

**Definition - Discord** - con·ten·tion (ken-ten'shen)  
Noun - Dispute; controversy

**1. OUTSIDERS CAN STIR UP A MESS.**

**V27 And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,**

**There were two sets of Jews in this chapter.** There were those that were Jewish Christians and there were those Jews that were not accepting Christ or His way. These were Jews that were not even from Jerusalem; they were from Asia perhaps from Ephesus. No doubt they were familiar with Paul and his teachings. When they saw him coming out of the temple this caused them to become upset. For here was a man that they felt was teaching against the Law in one city and in Jerusalem he was attending their temple.

As you can see, "the Jews from Asia" were swift to run to evil. They went out of their way to torment Paul. **(#5) feet that are swift in running to evil**

Keep in mind they just saw him in the temple, they did not know what he was doing or how long he was there or whom he was with.

We all have experienced someone coming into the room late and jumping to conclusions about what needs to be done and they are not on the same page with everyone else. We have either been the victims of the wrong perception or guilty of having it.

**2. TROUBLE ALWAYS WANTS COMPANY**

**V28 crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."**

I do not know how many there were but we can assume that there were more than one. They immediately cried out for help from others around them. They wanted support in their anger against one man, Paul.

You will always find those that seek to make trouble always looking for someone to join them in their trouble making in order to bring justification or to hide behind.

In order to solicit their help, they began to accuse Paul of things that he was not guilty of. They said that he taught everywhere against the Law. They also accused him of defiling the temple. Here is another of the things God hates. **(#6) A false witness who speaks lies.**

**The accusers were not regular worshippers** of in that temple because they did not live in Jerusalem, yet they sought to use the holiness of the temple to further their own cause. This is what we talked about last week in regard to the act of Jezebel to get two scoundrels to falsely accuse Naboth of cursing God and man.

**Paul was accused of bringing a Greek into the temple.** There was an outer court and inner court in the Temple. On the walls of the inner court it was written in Greek and Latin, that it was a capital offense for a non-Jew to go into the inner courtyard of the temple. To go beyond that they would do so under the pain of death. They accused Paul of taking a Greek into the holy area of the temple, this, if true, would have been a violation of the Mosaic Law.

They did not even pretend that they had seen him in the temple; but the inference was enough to inflame the angry crowd and excite the passions of the multitude.

It is the same in the accusations which people now often make of others. They see one thing, then they infer another. If you see a person walking down the street with a television, it does not mean they stole it

**3. TROUBLE MAKERS OFTEN GET THE FACTS WRONG OR JUST OUTRIGHT LIE.**  
**V29 (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)**

Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts thought it necessary to give an explanation as to what they were referring to. These people have probably seen Paul with *Trophimus*, a Greek Ephesian, with him in the city. Because they recognized *Trophimus* that is why I believe this group came from Ephesus. Keep in mind they did not see *Trophimus* in the temple, they just made an assumption (supposed) that he was with Paul because they saw him with Paul earlier.

What we see is not always the way it is and it is even more detrimental to act upon what another thought they saw to the hurt of another person.

**4. DISCORD AND DISRUPTION IS CONTAGIOUS.**  
**V30 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.**

Because these men wanted to only see the worst and perhaps had a strong dislike for Paul, they caused the entire city to be disturbed. Within that city there were people who were ready to jump to conclusions.

With a mob mentality stirred up by a few outsiders, Paul was dragged out the temple and the temple doors were immediately closed behind him. They shut the doors quickly so that Paul could not go back into the temple and claim sanctuary. Keep in mind all this was based on assumptions not fact.

In this scene we see that there were those who sowed dissent among their brothers and there were those who were **swift in running to evil** based upon the words or actions of somebody else.

We now add another of the things God hates. **(7) and one who sows discord among brethren.**

Have you ever formed an opinion about someone based upon the information or opinion that someone else had?

Always be wary of those who seek to rush to judgement.

### **5 IT IS EASY FOR DISCORD TO GET OUT OF CONTROL.**

**V31 Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.**

This mob, that is all you can call it at this point, was intent on killing Paul. They were not only in jeopardy of breaking a law of God but the Roman law. Jews were not allowed to kill anyone.

This is why they had to take Jesus before Pilate to have Him put to death for a Roman crime.

When news of this activity reached the Roman garrison, it was the commanders' duty to intervene. They were there to keep order. He must do so or he himself will be brought up on charges for allowing disorder to occur in his area of responsibility.

This is why when Paul writes in the Scriptures that we are to obey the authorities. Their purpose, even the worst of governments, was to maintain order within the society. To rebel against duly authorized authority is in fact contrary to the commands of Christ. This does not mean that what they tell us to do is correct but as long as it does not conflict with laws of God we are commanded to obey.

***Rom 13:1-5*** *13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. NIV*

**V32 He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.**

When they saw the Roman soldiers, and they stopped beating Paul. Obviously, they knew that what they were doing was wrong.

It is the same thing with us, we may take a chance to do that which is wrong to satisfy our own desires but when we are in the presence of authority, we began to second-guess our actions to question whether not they are correct.

God is omnipresent meaning that He is everywhere, so we are always in the presence of authority.

Thus far we have seen how **(5) feet that are swift in running to evil**, and **(7) and one who sows discord among brethren**.

All the things God hates can produce evil. God hates these because they do not reflect or honor Him. These actions are out of our own evil hearts.

There's an old saying that if you know better you can do better. By studying the things God hates we can become more like Christ. This list is not to say that these things are the only things God hates. There are more.

- *Psalm 5:5 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.*
- *Psalm 11:5 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.*
- *Revelation 2:5(NKJV) <sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
- *Malachi 2:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," ...*

If we want to please God then let us learn what pleases Him. What God loves we should love, what God hates we should hate.

Message Scripture: **Acts 21:27–32**, *Prov 6:16-19*, *Rom 13:1-5*, *Psalm 5:5*, *Psalm 11:5*, *Revelation 2:5*, *Malachi 2:16*.

END

## Epigrams on Quarrelsome

- It takes two to make a quarrel. —English Proverb
- Two cannot fall out if one does not choose. —Spanish Proverb
- An argument is the longest distance between two points of view. —Dan Bennett
- A long dispute means that both parties are wrong. —Voltaire
- Drop the subject when you cannot agree: there is no need to be bitter because you know you are right. —Thoughts
- No man resolved to make the most of himself can spare time for personal contention.
- Killing the dog will not cure the bite. Lincoln
- If we must disagree, let's disagree without being disagreeable. —L. B. Johnson
- A boy becomes a man when he walks around a puddle instead of through it.
- A friendly discussion is usually an argument in its initial stages. — C. McKenzie
- One reason why people who mind their own business are successful is that they have so little competition. 1
- It's easier to believe a lie that one has heard a thousand times than to believe a fact that no one has heard before.

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<sup>1</sup>Tan, Paul Lee, *Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations*, (Garland, Texas: Bible Communications, Inc.) 1996.