

## **THE PROBLEM WITH TRYING TO PLEASE PEOPLE**

### **Acts 21:15-40**

#### **1. People can be fickle**

*And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. (17)*

#### **2. People can be self-preserving**

*On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. (18)*

#### **3. People rarely give others the benefit of the doubt**

*but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. (21)*

#### **4. People are hard to please**

*Therefore do what we tell you... (23)*

#### **5. People change**

*We have four men who have taken a vow. Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law. (23-24)*

#### **6. People can be evil**

*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, 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." (27-28)*

#### **7. People make assumptions**

*(For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) (29)*

#### **8. People can be manipulated**

*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. Now as they were seeking to kill him... (30-31)*