

The Book of Acts Study Notes

CHAPTER 21

Preparatory Reading: 2 Corinthians 6

Finding Believers to Fellowship With (vs. 1-6)

- ❖ As Paul continues his journey to eventually coming to Jerusalem, he makes the point to find disciples to fellowship with and does so for 7 days (vs. 4)
 - So, was Paul supposed to go to Jerusalem?
 - Right motives – Acts 20:24; 24:11,17
 - No second guessing on Paul's part – Acts 21:14; 23:1
- ❖ Vs. 4: Don't go to Jerusalem – Paul receives prophetic warning of the danger ahead at Jerusalem
- ❖ Vs. 5: Although Paul didn't heed their counsel, they still prayed together and he departed in peace

Paul at Philip's House

- ❖ The same Philip who some 20 years earlier lost his friend Stephen as Saul (now Paul) watched
- ❖ Only the love of God can bring together former enemies to do the work of ministry
- ❖ Philip's daughters prophesied – Joel 2:28

Agabus the Prophet – vs. 10-12 (Acts 11:28)

- ❖ Illustrates what will happen to Paul if he goes to Jerusalem – vs. 11; Acts 21:33

Paul: Ministry at all Cost – vs. 13-16

- ❖ Paul was ready to pay the ultimate human price for the Lord Jesus
- ❖ When you are fully persuaded, it will impact others
- ❖ Mnason opened his home to Paul – vs. 16

Arriving at Jerusalem (vs. 17-26)

- ❖ As Paul shares what God has done among the Gentiles, Paul asked to seemingly go backwards into tradition of the law instead of the liberty of the Spirit
 - Vs. 20: Jews there believed but still zealous of the law
 - Vs. 21: they know what you have taught the Gentiles
- ❖ Paul follows ceremony and legalistic ritual in spite of his liberty – 1 Cor. 9:19-23; Rom. 12:18
 - Paul sponsors four men through their purification ceremony
- ❖ The church at Jerusalem still caught in tradition while churches beyond more powerful and free
- ❖ Vs. 25: We will honor our instructions to the Gentiles – Acts 15:19-29

Paul Seized by the Jews (vs. 27-31)

- ❖ Same enemies spotted him in the temple – Acts 20:19
 - ❖ Falsely accused of bringing Gentiles into temple when only allowed into outer courtyard – vs. 28-29; Acts 6:13

- ❖ Vs. 30: the doors were shut – they eliminated his ability to seek refuge from their wrong
 - Think about how many times “religious” individuals close the church doors and attack you outside of it

Saved by Soldiers (vs. 31-36)

- ❖ They tried to kill Paul – Acts 14:5, 19
- ❖ Soldiers come down from Tower of Antonia at northwest corner of the temple mount and stop people from killing Paul
- ❖ Why did it take soldiers and not believers? Where are those he came to help and had helped?
 - ➔ Are we silent when we should be speaking up?
- ❖ Paul was saved by the Romans and not Christians
- ❖ Vs. 33: Agabus prophesy fulfilled – Acts 21:11
- ❖ What some said – vs. 34
- ❖ The multitude wanted away with Paul – vs. 36 – Luke 23:18; John 19:15; Acts 7:54

Paul’s Defense (vs. 37-40)

- ❖ Vs. 37: Paul speaks in Greek
- ❖ Vs. 38: Paul mistaken for an Egyptian – Acts 5:36
- ❖ Vs. 40: Asked permission to speak because of his heart for his people – Rom. 9:1-5
 - Told that he was a Roman citizen – Jew of Tarsus a city of Cilicia
 - Spoke in Hebrew

CHAPTER 22

Men, brethren, and fathers (vs. 1-5)

- ❖ Vs. 2: Caused them to listen by speaking their language
- ❖ Vs. 3: Not born in the Promised Land but taught at the feet of Gamaliel – Acts 5:34
 - Taught according to the strict law of the fathers – Acts 23:6; 26:5; Phil. 3:5-7
- ❖ Vs. 3: I was just like you
 - I was zealous toward God – Rom. 10:1-2
- ❖ Vs. 4: I persecuted this way – Acts 8:3
- ❖ Vs. 5: I was wrong with permission – Acts 4:5