

Pastor Ed Kemp

Acts 21:1-14

MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, July 30

Sunday, Aug 2

Introduction:

When we had parted from them and had set sail, we ran a straight course to Cos and the next day to Rhodes and from there to Patara; ²and having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³When we came in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left, we kept sailing to Syria and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴After looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. ⁵When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until we were out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another. ⁶Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home again.

⁷When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and after greeting the brethren, we stayed with them for a day. ⁸On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. ⁹Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses. ¹⁰And we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹And coming to us he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"¹²When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents *began* begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³The Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!"

notes

So What?!

Make decisions based on 5 mentalities:

notes

#1. The shark mentality.

#2. The falcon mentality.

#3. The bison mentality.

#4. The fox mentality.

O, Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins. Ezekiel 13:4

#5. The ant mentality.

The ants are not a strong folk, but they prepare their food in the summer. Proverbs 30:25

GROUP DISCUSSION

Book of Acts: From Belief to Boldness
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Ed Kemp
Acts 21:1-14, July 30th & August 2nd, 2026
Difficult Decisions.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is the hardest decision you have had to make?

Read Aloud: Acts 21:1-14

1. What stands out to you most in Acts 21:1-14? Why do you think so many believers pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem? What does Paul's response in verses 13-14 reveal about his priorities?
2. Which of the five mentalities comes most naturally to you? Which is the biggest challenge?
3. Are you more likely to: act too quickly, overanalyze, avoid conflict, act out of self interest, or fail to prepare?
4. Paul's friends loved him deeply, yet they disagreed with his decision. What does this teach us about receiving godly counsel? What does it look like to genuinely say, "The will of the Lord be done" even when God's will is costly?