

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE ONGOING WORK OF JESUS BY THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Book of Acts - Part 43

AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS

Following in the Steps of the One Who Called Us

(Acts 21:15-36)

INTRODUCTION:

*"For I am ready not only to be bound,
but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*

—Acts 21:13b

*"Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him
to be bound with two chains..."*

—Acts 21:33

*"...and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth,
to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador
in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*

—Ephesians 6:19, 20

*"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you
an example for you to follow in His steps."*

—1 Peter 2:21

PREVIOUSLY... (21:1-14)

- The **Spirit** consistently said, "Suffering should be anticipated." The **Church** consistently said, "Suffering should be avoided." The **Apostle** consistently said, "Suffering should be accepted."
- Paul was going to Jerusalem, in spite of their counsel, in response to God's calling, and ir-respective of the cost."
- Paul wasn't just following the leading of the Spirit, he was following the life of the Savior.

THE STORYLINES IN THE TEXT:

1. The _____ : _____ the Gospel

2. The _____ : _____ the Gospel

3. The _____ : _____ the Gospel

THE OUTLINE OF THE TEXT:

1A. PAUL AND THE _____ THE _____ : (V. 15-24)

1B. The _____ the Church (v. 15-17)

“After we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.”

—Acts 21:17

2B. The _____ the Church (v. 18-20a)

“And the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it they began glorifying God...”

—Acts 21:18-20a

3B. The _____ the Church (v. 20b-26)

“You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. What, then, is to be done?...”

—Acts 21:20b-23a

• Paul’s _____.

• Paul’s _____.

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews....”

—1 Corinthians 9:19-23

2A. PAUL AND THE _____ THE _____ : (V. 27-36)

1B. Paul is _____ (v. 27-29)

“This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”

—Acts 21:28

2B. Paul is _____ (v. 30-32)

“Then all the city was provoked, and the people rushed together, and taking hold of Paul they dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut. While they were seeking to kill him,....”

—Acts 21:30, 31

3B. Paul is _____ (v. 33-36)

“Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains...”

—Acts 21:33a

CONCLUSION: