

Friday 5th June

Acts 20:22-23

*“And now I am bound by the Spirit[f] to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.*

Who knows what lies ahead. Paul had no idea what lay ahead. Already we have seen him causing riots and uproar. Officials wanting to kill him and put him in prison. Paul knows that everyone knows who he is and even though he could view it as a hinderance he sees it as a blessing. It would have been so easy to just stop and go in to hiding for a while away from the spotlight. Just for a short time to let everything simmer down a bit. To let tempers calm and then when it was safer start over again. No chance. We have already learned that Paul was not one for shrinking or shying away. Paul knew that going to a new city had a new set of problems. If they had heard he was coming then he was going to face opposition straight off the bat. Jews would already be planning to capture him, arrest him and see him thrown in prison. At all times though for Paul the reward was always greater than the risk.

Paul wasn’t in it for any personal reward but only wanted to build the Kingdom of God. If going in to a city and seeing one person saved meant that he ran the risk of being imprisoned then it was more than worth it. Are we too worried about what people might say to us if we tell them about Jesus. Does the risk outweigh the reward??

How amazing would it be that if we said no to fear, doubt or popularity and instead of worrying about the risk we concentrate on the reward of seeing a friend or family member come to know Jesus and have an eternal future.

Risk or Reward??