

Series: A Church on a Mission! – A Study of the Book of Acts

Sermon: Still on the Mission

Acts 21

Acts 20:24 (ESV) But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

What happens when your purpose in life lines up with God's purpose for your life?

1. Paul was totally indifferent to the things of this world!

Philippians 1:21 (ESV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

2. Paul was steadfast through obstacles!

Acts 19:21 (ESV) Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

Acts 20:22-23 (ESV) ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

Acts 9:13-16 (ESV) ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Acts 21:9-10 (ESV) ⁹ He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. ¹⁰ While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

Acts 11:27-30 (ESV) ²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). ²⁹ So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Luke 14:25-27 (ESV) ²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Mark 10:28-31 (ESV) ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

- The first obstacle that Paul had to overcome was the Christians in Tyre.

Acts 23:1 (ESV) And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.”

Acts 24:16 (ESV) So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- The second obstacle Paul had to overcome was Agabus and those Christians in Caesarea.

Application:

Do not let well-meaning Christians and the Church keep you from fulfilling the purposes of Jesus.