

The Acts of the Apostles, Part 46

Transformed by Christ!

Acts 21:1-15

Key Scripture: Acts 21:1-3

When we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo.

Key Scripture: Acts 21:4-6

And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

Key Scripture: Acts 21:7-9

When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

Key Scripture: Acts 21:10-11

While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Key Scripture: Acts 21:12-15

When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done." After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem.

Background / Context

- Paul is concluding his third missionary journey.
- He is on his way back to Jerusalem.

Trouble in the Text

- **The Holy Spirit informs Paul that imprisonment awaits him.**

Trouble in the World

“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Current News

- **Division!**
- **Hate & Anger!**
- **Violence!**
- **Us against Them!**

Saul Before Christ

“Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.”

Saul Before Christ

“But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”

Grace in the Text

- **Saul / Paul**
- **We see a very different Apostle in Acts 21.**
- **Instead of hate and persecution: connection and grace.**
- **Instead of violence and rage: compassion and sacrifice.**

Grace in the World

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ requires sacrifice from us!

Sacrifice & Gain

Sacrifice & Gain

Sacrifice your right to justice.

Gain righteous justice by the God of justice.

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”

Sacrifice & Gain

Sacrifice your “right” to retaliate against those who offend you.

Gain supernatural peace.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Sacrifice & Gain

Sacrifice anxiety & worry.

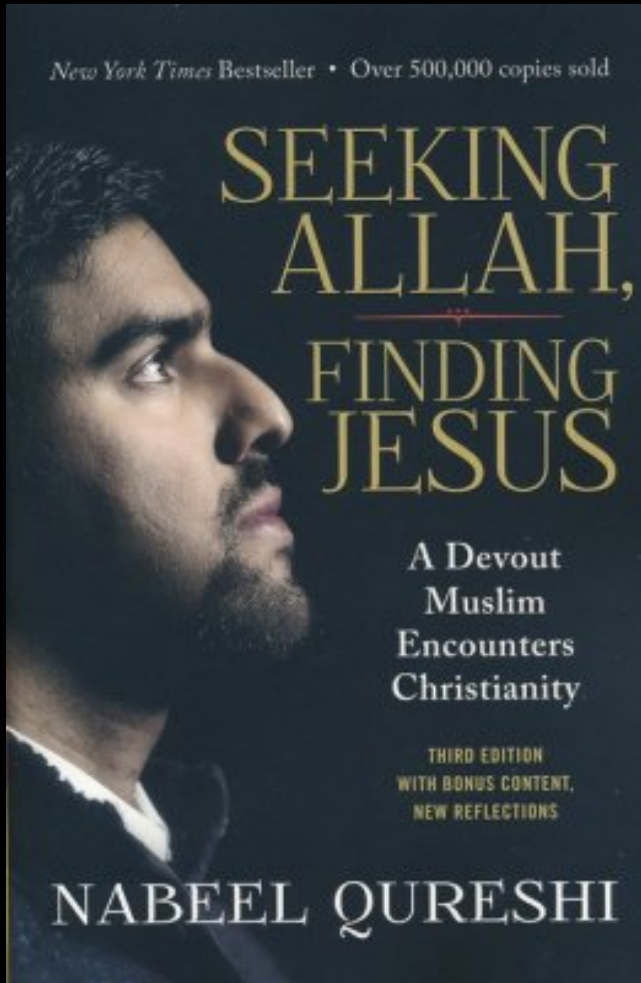
Gain everything that matters most.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Paul Knew

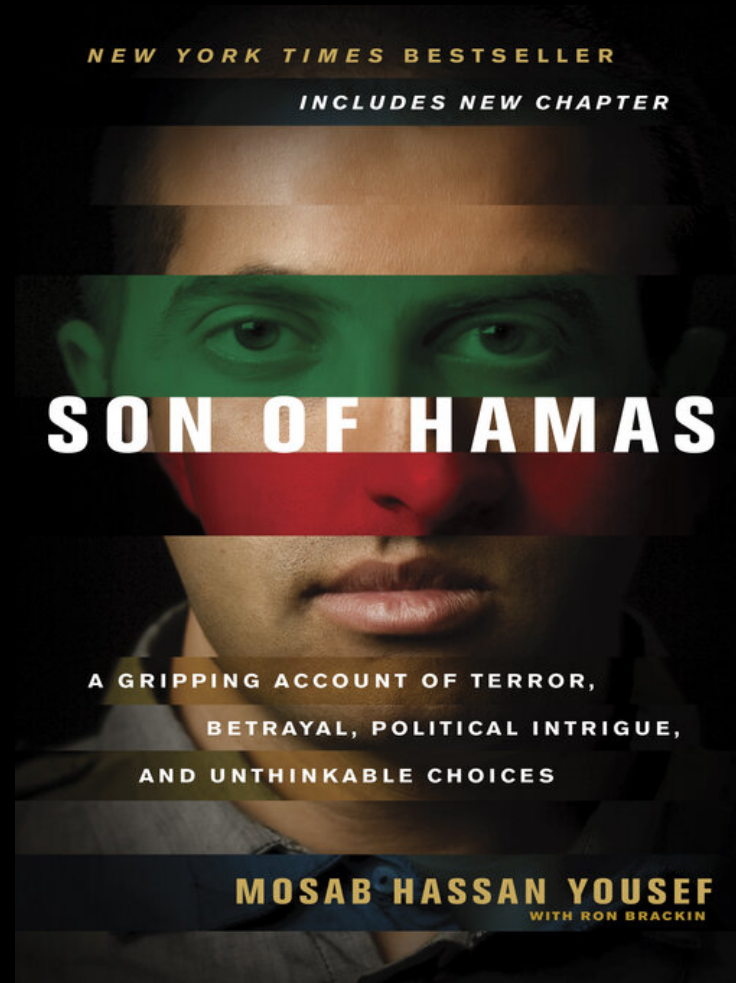
- **The example of Christ is sacrifice.**

Two True Stories



Nabeel Qureshi

Two True Stories



Mosab Hassan Yousef

Application

- **Sacrifice is the way to share the Gospel.**
- **Sacrifice is the way to follow Jesus.**
- **Sacrifice is the way to bring true peace.**
- **Sacrifice is the way of a transformed life in Christ!**