

TEXT: Acts 21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Go to redeemerchurch.com/events to find and register for upcoming events.
 - Parent Commissioning is for covenant members with children and will take place on Sunday, November 19th.
 - Baptism Class will be on Sunday, December 3rd and is for believers who are ready to take the next steps of obedience in baptism.
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Big Idea: Gospel grace produces reckless obedience.

Ice Breaker: What's the riskiest thing that you've done or watched someone else do?

Questions

Read Acts 21:1-6

Paul knew difficulty was coming in Jerusalem, the disciples in Tyre tried to tell him and stop him from going. Paul was not misinformed; he knew what was coming and that difficulty does not determine direction and he proceeded to obey God.

- What in your life have you said “no” to simply because of fleshly caution and difficulty?

Read v5-9

The Gospel creates relationships where there were no prior relationships, Paul had just met the people of Tyre and yet there was a mutual bond and love for each other. The Gospel creates family out of those who were once enemies, Paul goes to Philip, who witnessed his friend Stephen's death at the hands of Paul.

- How should our relationships with our community group, church, and believers be transformed in light of this truth of the Gospel?
- Why, or how, do we limit the Gospel from fully transforming our relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ?

Read v10-13

Paul received further confirmation of the difficulty he would face if he went to Jerusalem, and the people, his friends, even Dr. Luke, tried to persuade him not to go. Paul wasn't disconnected from the implications of obeying God, he was an emotional wreck over how costly his obedience would be, yet he chose to recklessly obey Jesus instead of what was easy.

- What allows us to say “yes” to obeying God, as Paul did, even when we know it is going to be difficult and painful?

Read v14-16

There's a team of people going with Paul and anticipating his arrest at any moment. Not only does Paul know what's coming, the whole team knows what's coming and they know what his reckless obedience is going to cost him.

- How do we reconcile this story today when we typically hear, and even believe, that Jesus makes our life easy, better, or full of peace?

Read Luke 14:25-33

Our love for those with whom we have the closest earthly relationship should look like hatred when compared to our surpassing love for Jesus. That kind of love for Jesus requires reckless obedience even when we don't know the outcome or when we know the outcome, but it is difficult and painful. Jesus declares His lordship over every aspect of our lives: our actions, thoughts, words, relationships, motives, desires, etc.

- In what area of our lives do we lack reckless obedience to Jesus and fail to surrender to His lordship?
 - **Phil. 3:8** *"More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ."*
 - **Rom. 8:18** *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us."*