

Acts

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OF THE APOSTLES

First
BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

What Are You Afraid Of? – Acts 21:1-14

_____ were afraid for Paul.

“¹ After saying farewell to the Ephesian elders, we sailed straight to the island of Cos. The next day we reached Rhodes and then went to Patara. ² There we boarded a ship sailing for Phoenicia. ³ We sighted the island of Cyprus, passed it on our left, and landed at the harbor of Tyre, in Syria, where the ship was to unload its cargo.

⁴ We went ashore, found the local believers, and stayed with them a week. These believers prophesied through the Holy Spirit that Paul should not go on to Jerusalem. ⁵ When we returned to the ship at the end of the week, the entire congregation, including women and children, left the city and came down to the shore with us. There we knelt, prayed, ⁶ and said our farewells. Then we went aboard, and they returned home.”

~ ACTS 21:1-6 (NLT)

When we are afraid, _____ can give _____.

_____ was afraid for Paul.

“⁷ The next stop after leaving Tyre was Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed for one day. ⁸ The next day we went on to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist, one of the seven men who had been chosen to distribute food. ⁹ He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy.

¹⁰ Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea. ¹¹ He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, 'The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.'”

~ ACTS 21:7-11 (NLT)

When afraid, even _____ can give _____.

Paul's _____ were afraid for him.

“¹² When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.” ~ ACTS 21:12 (NLT)

Sometimes _____ is based on _____,

but it's still _____.

“²² 'And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, ²³except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.'”

~ ACTS 20:22-23 (NLT)

Fear never stops _____ .

“ ¹³ But he said, ‘Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus.’ ¹⁴ When it was clear that we couldn’t persuade him, we gave up and said, ‘The Lord’s will be done.’”

~ ACTS 21:13-14 (NLT)

“ *To choose to suffer means there is something wrong; to choose God’s will even if it means suffering is a very different thing. No healthy saint ever chooses suffering; he chooses God’s will, as Jesus did, whether it means suffering or not.*”

~ Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*.

So What?

What are you _____ ?

“ ²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative - that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

²⁷ ‘I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.’”

~ JOHN 14:26-27 (NLT)

Where is the Holy Spirit _____ ?

“ ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”

~ PSALM 23:4 (NLT)

Is God calling you _____ ?

“ ¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

~ EPHESIANS 2:10 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *now on the APP* |    

- 1 - What are you most afraid of? What is something people are afraid of that doesn't really bother you?
- 2 - What is some bad advice that you knew not to follow? What happened? What is some good advice that you chose not to follow? What did you miss out on?
- 3 - Read Acts 21:4-6. When was a time you were afraid for someone else? What kind of advice did you give them during that time?
- 4 - Read Acts 21:10-11. Advice from people with spiritual authority is hard to ignore. How do fearful leaders sometimes lead people astray?
- 5 - Read Acts 21:12. As Christians, how can we discern between following God's calling in our lives and heeding the well-intentioned warnings of those around us?
- 6 - Read Acts 20:22-23. Paul had his own convictions from the Holy Spirit. Why is it important to test the spiritual advice around you with the Spirit inside of you?
- 7 - What are you afraid of right now?
- 8 - What do you sense the Holy spirit is saying to you in that fear? How can you test and confirm that?
- 9 - What will you do next in that situation? How can your group hold you accountable?

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