

Living in the Promises of Jesus
Acts 21-22
Lesson 15

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 21, 22

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below a group of key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way

Key Words: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Paul. Acts 22: Key Words: God, Jesus, and Paul

PAUL'S READINESS TO DIE: Read Acts 21:1-14

1. We left chapter 20 with Paul (in Miletus) bidding farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus. Using Acts 21:1-3, trace Paul's journey to Tyre.

2. Paul and his companions stayed in Tyre for seven days. What did the disciples in Tyre tell Paul? Verse 4
 - a. What do we learn about Paul's ministry from Acts 20:23?

 - b. Given the stated concern for Paul's safety in Jerusalem and knowing they would not see Paul again, describe what this scene must have been like.

3. Who did Paul's companions stay with in Caesarea?

4. What do we know about Philip from:
 - Acts 6:5
 - Acts 8:5-40
 - Acts 21:8 Acts 21:9

4. Notice, Philip's daughters prophesied. However, we are not told that they prophesied regarding Paul's impending trip to Jerusalem. What two things does this teach us about this gift of prophecy?

5. Rather than prophesy through Philip's daughters, the Holy Spirit chose to use a man named Agabus. Where was he from?
 1. What did Agabus: do?

 2. What does Agabus say?

 3. What was the response of those who were with Paul?

 4. This was at least the third prophesy regarding Paul's trip to Jerusalem. Reread the following three prophesies and summarize them.
 - Acts 20:22,23;

- Acts 21:4
- Acts 21:10,11

6. Consider Paul's response in verse 13. Who was he willing to die for?
7. Consider the response of Paul's companions in verse 14. *When they could not persuade Paul, they ceased.* Whose will did they want?
8. Based on the prophecies given, in going to Jerusalem, Paul was facing certain persecution. Yet, he seemed to feel that he was doing so in accordance with God's will. Few of us are called to a place where persecution awaits us. What are some other examples of God calling us to do something difficult?
 - a. How does knowing what God would have you do help you to face difficult circumstances?

CONCERNING GENTILE BELIVERS: Read Acts 21:15-26

1. This section begins with the words and *after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem.* Thus marks the end of Paul's third missionary journey. In Jerusalem, Paul told them in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. Although, when they heard it they glorified the Lord, what was the concern expressed in Acts 21:20, 21?

2. The leaders in the church of Jerusalem were concerned that Paul was against Jewish customs. What did they tell Paul to do to show that he walked orderly and kept the law?
 - a. Although these customs were not requirements for salvation, Jewish customs still applied to the Jew. What did they state in Acts 21:25?

 - b. What had been written regarding the Gentiles in Acts 15:28, 29?

3. Paul complied with their request. What is the difference between compromising God's will and doing something in order to avoid offending someone?

4. What is an example of a rule or tradition that some Christians might make equal to God's word?

PAUL'S ARREST: Read Acts 21:27- 36

1. The Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. What claim did they make against Paul in verse 28?
 - a. What similar accusation was made against Stephen in Acts 6:13?

- b. What was the accusation of Acts 21:28 mistakenly based upon?
2. Write a newspaper article recording the events that followed (verses 30-36).

PAUL'S TESTIMONY: Read Acts 21:37-40, 22:1-21

1. Paul asked to speak to the commander, identifying himself as a Jew from Tarsus. Who did the commander think Paul was?

2. Upon being given permission to speak, Paul shared his testimony. Although Paul could speak Greek, he chose to speak in Hebrew, targeting the Jews rather than the Gentiles. The original account was recorded in Acts 10. Acts 22:14 discloses what God appointed for Paul. List these three things.

What would Paul do? Verse 15

In what ways are God's desires, as stated in verses 14, 15, His desires for all believers?

3. The details of verses 17-21 were not previously mentioned. What happened?

Paul chose to share his own story rather than reason with them that Jesus is the Christ. When is it useful to share your personal experiences with others?

PAUL'S CITIZENSHIP: Read Acts 22:22-30

1. And they listened to him until this word. What did Paul say in verse 21 that angered them?

The Jews wanted to exclude Gentiles from God. What beliefs are behind attempts to exclude people from God?

2. How angry were the people in this mob?
3. What did Paul say that stopped the centurion from scourging him?
4. What happened the next day? verse 30

REVIEW: Read Acts 21, 22

1. What can we learn from Paul's:
 - Ignoring the warnings not to go to Jerusalem
 - Adjusting his behavior for the sake of others?
 - Ignoring the accusation made against him and seizing the opportunity to share Jesus?
 - Boldness?

- Persistent efforts to reach out to the Jews?
 - Handling of being misunderstood?
2. What are some misunderstandings about Christianity that people have today?
 3. Share one thing you especially admire about Paul and why.
 4. What do you think Paul knew about Jesus that compelled him to speak of Him?