

Trouble in Jerusalem (Christian Growth Hour July 25, 2021)

Background

Acts 20:22 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. 24 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.

Why did Paul feel compelled to go to Jerusalem?

Why was Paul willing to go even though it meant suffering?

What was Paul's ultimate goal?

Acts 21:10 While we were staying for many days (in Caesarea), a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 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." 12 When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 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."

What was going to be Paul's fate in Jerusalem?

Were Paul's friends wrong in trying to persuade him not to go?

Given these circumstances, would we be willing to go? What would be necessary for us to go?

Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

How might the Lord's word encourage Paul on his trip to Jerusalem?

Now in Jerusalem

Acts 23:12 When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. 13 There were more than forty who made this conspiracy.

Acts 23:23 Then he (the tribune) called two of the centurions and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. 24 Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor."

In Caesarea

Acts 24:1 And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul. 2 And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying:

“Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, 3 in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. 4 But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. 5 For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him. 8 By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

You think Tertullus really liked and appreciated Felix? What was his purpose for praising him?

Plague (noun) a disastrous evil or affliction. A cause of irritation.

(Verb) a: to cause worry or distress to b: to disturb or annoy persistently

In the Bible “Public enemy”; same word as “scoffers” and “worthless men”

Did Paul fit the definition of a plague? Why or why not? How about us?

Should we expect such hostility to us as Christians?

John 15:18 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

What does Jesus say about how the world will act toward us? Do you see this happening today?

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

What kind of aroma are we emitting? Is it sweet or sour?

Why are we a fragrance of death to some?