ACTS - FROM RESURRECTION TO REVELATION

Lesson 41

Review: *We left Paul resisting the Promptings of God's Spirit, the Pleas of God's People, and the Predictions of God's Prophet concerning his desire to go to Jerusalem.*

I. Paul Was Persuaded That His Plans Would Prosper - *Acts 21:14-17*

1) Paul felt highly qualified socially, educationally, and in his abilities
2) Paul felt highly obligated for his past treatment of Jewish believers
3) Paul felt highly motivated in a way that was spiritual, sincere, and sacrificial
4) Paul felt his financial gift would open doors, minds, and hearts

II. Outside Of God's Purpose, Passionate Plans Produce Problems - *Acts 21:18-*

A) There were some problems of PERCEPTION - *vs. 18-22*

1) Among the Jewish believers

2) Among the Jewish unbelievers

B) There were some problems that PRE-EXISTED - *vs. 23*

1) Four of these "zealous" Jews had become ceremonially defiled
2) They were possibly too poor to afford the rites of purification

**Violating a Nazarite vow (cutting one's hair, ingesting anything from the vine, or touching anything dead) could require an offering of two turtle-doves and a lamb; up to two lambs, a ram, and a meal offering.*

C) There was a solution to the "PROBLEM" - *vs. 24-25*

1) That Paul join them in their purification ceremony
2) That Paul pay for all of them
3) That Paul not include his "Gentile" companions in this

D) There was a problem with the solution... more problems - *vs. 26-30*

1) He is accused as a false TEACHER

2) He is accused as a TROUBLE-MAKER

3) He is accused as a TRAITOR

III. A Solution To The Problem Caused By The Solution To The Problem - *Acts 21 &22*

1) Problems we create are subject to the Providence of the CREATOR

2) Providence allows us to be a faithful WITNESS in our problems

3) Providence protects us to ultimately perform God's PURPOSE