

Logos Class – Acts of the Apostles

On Campus class for Dec 5, 2021

Acts Ch 21 – Jerusalem, and Paul's path

Our next few weeks...

- ✓ *Nov 28, 2021 – Acts 20*
- ✓ *Dec 5, 2021 – Acts 21*
- *Dec 12, 2021 – Christmas Lesson 1 – The First Noël*
- *Dec 19, 2021 – Christmas Lesson 2 – The Second Noël*
- *Dec 26, 2021 – Acts 22*
- *Jan 2, 2022 – Acts 23*

There is a lot going on in the world now, with even more expected so some time in here I will do an ICYMI

Decisions – *What do we do?*

- We all face life changing decisions all through our lives
 - Jobs
 - Colleges
 - Moving
 - Churches
 - Marriage
 - Divorce
 - Start a business
 - Retirement
 - Downsizing
 - On and On
- Do we seek guidance? From where or from whom?
- Read self help books
- Parents, grandparents, friends?
- Bible? In Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV) it says: ***14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.***

Acts Ch 21:1-6

...On to Jerusalem

21 After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to **Kos**. The next day we went to **Rhodes** and from there to **Patara**.

² We found a ship crossing over to **Phoenicia**, went on board and set sail.

³ After sighting **Cyprus** and passing to the south of it, we sailed on to **Syria**. We landed at **Tyre**, where our ship was to unload its cargo.

⁴ We **sought out** the disciples there and stayed with them **seven days**. **Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.**

⁵ When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way. **All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray.**

⁶ After saying goodbye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home

Acts Ch 21:7-9

⁷ We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed with them for a day.

⁸ Leaving the next day, we reached **Caesarea** and stayed at the house of **Philip the evangelist**, one of the **Seven**.

⁹ He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied

Acts Ch 21:10-14

- ¹⁰ After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named **Agabus** came down from Judea.
- ¹¹ Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"
- ¹² When we heard this, **we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.**
- ¹³ Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
- ¹⁴ When he would not be dissuaded, **we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done.**

Acts Ch 21:15-22a *Paul moves on to Jerusalem*

- *15 After this, we started on our way up to Jerusalem.*
- *16 Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us and brought us to the home of Mnason, where we were to stay. He was a man from Cyprus and one of the early disciples.*
- *17 When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly.*
- *18 The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present.*
- *19 Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.*
- *20 When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: “You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law.*
- *21 They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs.*
- *22 What shall we do?*

Acts Ch 21:22b-25 *Dilemma and instruction*

22 What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come,

23 so, There are four men with us who have made a vow. do what we tell you

24 Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law.

25 As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.”

Acts Ch 21:26-29

Paul Arrested

²⁶ The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end, and the offering would be made for each of them.

*²⁷ When the seven days were nearly over, **some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple.** They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him,*

²⁸ shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.”

²⁹ (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

Acts Ch 21:30-36 *Paul thrown out and beaten*

30** The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. **Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.

***31** While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.*

***32** He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.*

***33** The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.*

***34** Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks.*

***35** When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers.*

36** The crowd that followed kept shouting, **“Get rid of him!”

Image of Antonia Fortress in Jerusalem



- Destroyed in 70AD when the city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed
- Sketches show steps
- Fortress was where Roman Soldiers lived, as well as the officers of the legion

Acts Ch 21:37-40 *Paul Speaks...*

*³⁷ As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, “**May I say something to you?**”*

*“**Do you speak Greek?**” he replied. ³⁸ “**Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?**”*

*³⁹ Paul answered, “**I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people.**”*

⁴⁰ After receiving the commander’s permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic:

Acts Ch 21 Final Discussion

This ends Chapter 21, but before we wrap up, I want to come back to a point I made early in the lesson

DO I STAY OR DO I GO? Paul made a momentous decision without any support or agreement among those he asked Why? How?

Paul's direct communication with the Spirit, and his initial ministry task from Christ were critical here. He felt compelled by the Spirit, and followed the urge to go, even not knowing the consequences. If we are close to the Spirit, and intent on following God's plan for our lives (if we even know it) then we will choose the right path, even with well-meaning opposition.

Acts Ch 21 What about our advice to others?

When we are asked about a serious matter by another, how do we answer and what should we think about before we answer:

- **Don't enlist the Lord's name in your advice...***God told me to tell you to do this...*
- **Understand that God will not deliver His will for someone else through you or us**
- **Our counsel cannot replace the other persons decision making struggle**
- **Root your advice in Scripture, properly applied...not feelings**
- **Before you offer counsel, listen carefully.**

Next week

- *We will cover **The First Noël***
- *Pray for our friends in need, both in class and in general*
- *Praise Him for successful surgeries and recovery*
- *Pray for our Church, its Pastors and staff*
- *Pray for our country, state, cities and leaders*
- *If you didn't come to the **Glory of Christmas Friday**, come this afternoon at 3pm...you will be blessed*
- *Give Thanks to the Lord for all things and come back next week*