

Book of Acts

Chapter 21:1 – 36

Lesson 20

What was the mood when Paul and his companions depart from their friends at Miletus? (20:37-38)

- ▶ Weeping
- ▶ Sorrow
- ▶ They expected they would not see Paul again



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts 19:1 - 21:14

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
- ← Paul's Route

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Paul restores life to young Eutychus

John's disciples believe in Jesus
Jewish exorcists fail to reproduce Paul's miracles
Magic books burnt
Demetrius & craftsmen of Diana cause uproar against the Way

Paul exhorts Ephesian elders & says tribulations & chains await him in Jerusalem
Elders weep because they won't see Paul anymore

Disciples warn Paul on the Journey to Jerusalem
Paul determined to do the will of the Lord and go to Jerusalem

Paul arrested in the Temple
Paul defends himself & witnesses to the Jews in Jerusalem



From Miletus where did they travel? (21:1-3)

- ▶ They set sail to Cos, Rhodes, and Patara.
- ▶ They found a ship crossing to Phoenicia.
- ▶ They passed Cyprus, sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre.

At Tyre, how long did they stay and what did the disciples there advise Paul to do? (21:4)

- ▶ They stayed 7 days.
- ▶ “Through the Spirit” they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.
- ▶ Why spend so much time in Tyre?

Why did Paul ignore the believers' warning?

- ▶ Paul's justification can be found in:
 - ▶ Acts 19:21
 - ▶ Acts 20:22-24

If the Spirit was leading Paul back to Jerusalem as he had previously asserted, why would the same Spirit lead these people to urge Paul not to go?

- ▶ Commentators have two views on this question.

How was the departure scene at Tyre meaningful? (21:5–6)

- ▶ The local disciples, along with wives and children, accompanied Paul and the group until they were outside the city.
- ▶ They prayed and said farewell to one another.

21:1-16

What did the group do on their one-day stop in Ptolemais? (21:7)

- ▶ They greeted the brothers there.

Who was Paul's host in Caesarea and what was his role in the early church? (21:8)

- ▶ Philip the Evangelist, who was one of the seven chosen to serve the Jerusalem church (Acts 6:5).
- ▶ Philip was last mentioned in Acts 8:40, where we were told of his 'preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea'

What gift did Philip's four daughters have? (21:9)

- His four unmarried daughters prophesied.
- The historian, Eusebius (yoo-SEE-bee-uhs) claims these ladies provided Luke with information about the early days of the Jerusalem church.

Who was Agabus and where did Agabus come from and what did he prophesy concerning Paul? (21:10-12)

- A prophet from Judea.
- 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.’

What did Paul say to the Christians at Caesarea? (21:13–14)

- ▶ Paul knew what awaited him.
- ▶ He was willing to go to Jerusalem anyway.

What did Paul and his companions do on the final stage of their journey? (21:15–16)

- ▶ The disciples from Caesarea brought them to the house of Mnason of Cyprus
- ▶ He provided lodging while they were in Jerusalem.

On their second day in Jerusalem who did Paul see and what did Paul report? (21:18-19)

- ▶ James and the elders of the Jerusalem church
- ▶ They glorified God when they heard about Paul's ministry to the Gentiles.

What concern did the church leaders voice? (21:20-21)

- ▶ They also warned him about Jewish believers zealous for the Law.
- ▶ The Jewish believers think that Paul wants them to forsake Moses.
 - ▶ Because Paul is telling them not to circumcise their children or follow their traditions.

What did the leaders of the church suggest that Paul do? Why? (21:22–24)

- ▶ They asked Paul to purify himself also with four other men, so that the Jewish believers will see him complying with the Law.

Why did the leaders bring up the Jerusalem decree? (21:25)

- ▶ They had an unusual request. Purify yourself with 4 other men.
- ▶ Without protest, Paul went along with the plan, symbolically identifying with the Jews in carrying out this act of piety.

What did Paul and the young men do the next day? (21:26)

- ▶ The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them.
- ▶ Paul began his own weeklong purification process in conjunction with the final week of the temporary Nazirite vow taken by these four men.

What happened when Paul went to the temple? (21:27-30)

- ▶ After seven days, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him.
- ▶ They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple.
- ▶ Paul is falsely accused of defiling the temple by taking a Gentiles into the prohibited area.

21:27-36


What was at the heart of the controversy between the Jews and the Gentiles?

- The Law.

- What's the conflict between Christians and Jew today?


What happens when the Roman commander / tribune heard what was going on? (21:31-36)

- He rescues Paul by arresting him.
- He inquired who he was and what he had done.
- Paul asked to speak to the Jewish people, and the commander (Claudius Lysias) let him speak.



Let's look at the motives related to this incident in Jerusalem.

- ▶ Why did Paul support James and the Elders by doing what they asked?
- ▶ What rules or traditions should you support for the sake of peace?
- ▶ What is the difference between compromising God's will and doing something in order to avoid offending someone?



Let's look at the motives related to this incident in Jerusalem.

- ▶ How can we decide when we should stand up for our beliefs and when we should give in for the sake of others?
- ▶ When are Christians often tempted to make a rule or tradition as important as God's written Word?