



## Beware of the Wolves

By Johnny Caruso on June 25, 2021

### TODAY'S READING: Acts 21

This is an unusual section of scripture. Paul is on his way to Jerusalem per the Holy Spirit in Acts 20:22. He sets sail from city to city and visits believers along the way. Before actually getting to Jerusalem, he visits ten cities and hitches a ride on several sailing vessels.

Paul encountered several people that discouraged his going to Jerusalem. A profit named Agabus took off Paul's belt and tied up his own hands and feet. He told Paul the Spirit said this is what would happen to the one who owns the belt when he arrives in Jerusalem.

Paul would not be dissuaded from going to Jerusalem: *"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" (vs. 13).*

Paul is very clear about what he was not willing to do or compromise on. I wonder what you are not willing to do and compromise on for the gospel's sake? Is there a dream God called you to that you have been lax on fulfilling? Is there a sin that the Holy Spirit has been prompting you to conquer through His power? Is there a specific spiritual discipline that you need to shore up in your life? Maybe when you were younger God called you to serve in the ministry or the mission field and you have chosen to take the easy road, not what God called you to?

Well, just as you might expect, Paul goes into the temple. Some Asian Jews recognize him and incite a small riot. They had believed a lie about the law and circumcision stirred up by Satan to infect the gospel and its messengers. I think it is interesting that Satan tried to squash the gospel by causing trouble outside the church, but it only caused the church to grow. To try to stop the spread of the gospel, Satan decided to go inside the church and cause those associated with the gospel to do things that were wrong (sin).

Anyway, sorry I chased that rabbit. Paul is grabbed by the crowd and beaten. It caused such a ruckus that the Roman guard who watched over the temple got involved. When the people saw the Romans they stopped beating Paul, and the Romans shackled him with two chains. But in Pauline fashion, Paul asks to speak to the people.

You will have to follow Shannon Ford's devotions next week to get the rest of the story.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the story and life of Paul -- What an extraordinary Christ Follower. Give us the passion and the courage to follow through with the things You have asked and commanded us to do.

Have a great weekend!

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Weekend is for catch-up and review.

**MONDAY'S READING:** Acts 22

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