



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of May 3, 2026

Acts 21:1-14

And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. 2 And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. 3 When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. 4 And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. 5 When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed 6 and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home. 7 When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. 8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. 10 While we were staying for many days, 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." 14 And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

- What do you think drove and enabled the apostle Paul to be so dedicated and single-minded in his efforts to take the gospel to the end of the earth? Do you think all Christians should share the same goals as the apostle Paul? Why or why not?
- Would you agree that the solution to mankind's problems is the gospel? Why or why not? If the gospel were to be preached to the ends of the earth, how would the world be different? Would all of mankind be saved? What should be our motivation to preach the gospel?
- How would you define or describe Christian fellowship? Can there be such a thing as secular fellowship? If so, how would it be different from Christian fellowship?
- In v.4 we are told that "through the Spirit, they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem." Well respected Bible commentators say that Paul was disobedient to a clear command from the Holy Spirit. What do you think? Was Paul being disobedient to the Lord? Explain your answer.
- Do you think Paul was serious when he said "*I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus*"? Explain your answer. If he was serious, what separates Paul from other radicals who willingly give up their lives for the sake of their cause? (Japanese kamikazes, Islamic terrorists, etc.)
- The same gospel, the same Holy Spirit, and the same mission that was given to the first century believers, has been given to Christians today. Why don't we see the same zeal for evangelism in the 21st century? Or do we? What, if anything, has changed from the 1st century until now?