



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of May 10, 2026

Acts 21:15-26

15 After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. 16 And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge. 17 When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. 18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. 19 After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law, 21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs. 22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. 23 Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; 24 take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. 25 But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality." 26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

- Because of his courage and conviction, the apostle Paul might be perceived as a masculine heroic man full of bravado and machismo. Do you agree with this perception? Do you think it is odd for a man of great strength to also be a man of great humility, willing to submit himself to others? Explain.
- When Paul reaches Jerusalem, he stays in the home of Mnason, an early convert to Christianity. Assuming Mnason became a Christian through Jesus' ministry, is it reasonable to assume that he is a humble man of God? Should increasing humility be the norm for a true believer the longer he/she is alive, especially when facing persecution and hardship? Explain.
- Is pride, self promotion, and arrogance hard to find in the church? Why or why not? Of all the disciples, Paul probably had the most to boast about. What do you think kept Paul so humble and what should elders of the church learn from Paul when it comes to humility?
- Although James' request to Paul was wrong (see Acts 21:23-24), we can rightly assume that Paul would never compromise the gospel for any reason (see Galatians 1:6-11). Why then do you think Paul agreed with such a questionable request? And what does this tell us about Paul's commitment to follow Christ's example "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45)
- Similar to the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-38 who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and hair, why do you think drug addicts and prostitutes, when they become believers, are filled with a special zeal to love and follow Jesus?
- What can we learn from the sinful woman in Luke 7 as well as the converted drug addicts and prostitutes and how should this help us to live out Philipians 2:3-11?