

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon  
January 2, 2022  
Acts 21 “Heading for Jerusalem”

I. Introduction

**Read: Act 20:18-24**

† **Paul we see, in reading the opening passage, is heading towards Jerusalem. And in Acts 20:36-38 we read:** And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. 37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, 38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

† **So, today, we follow Paul’s continuing missionary journey on the road heading back to Jerusalem...**

† **We have seen that Paul is completely motivated and driven by the love of Christ...because Jesus saved him, Paul serves Jesus as a bond slave – one who willing serves his master out of love!**

II. Caesarea

**Act 21:1-3** And it came to pass, that after we were gotten from them, and had launched, we came with a straight course unto Coos, and the day following unto Rhodes, and from thence unto Patara: 2 And finding a ship sailing over unto Phenicia, we went aboard, and set forth. 3 Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

† **Paul, on the road to Jerusalem, is now at Tyre...**

**Act 21:4** And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

† **“Finding Disciples”:** the Greek tells us they were actively looking for other believers...it is always good to fellowship with believers.

† **Meeting and hanging out with believers you don’t know isn’t like being with worldly strangers – we always have Jesus as our common focus. Don’t know what to talk about? Talk about what Jesus is doing in your life!**

**Act 21:5** And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

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† **As we discussed last week (or I could say, “last year” 😊), we are to Pray with People: 1Ti 2:1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

† **Paul demonstrated and lived the concept of praying for others...he told us many times to pray without ceasing!**

**Act 21:6-9** And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again. 7 And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day. 8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

† **Paul, when they came into Caesarea, stayed with Philip the evangelist – imagine this, Philip was one of the first 7 deacons along with Stephen...and Paul took part in Stephen’s stoning.**

† **BUT...Philip has forgiven Paul and is practicing kindness and hospitality:**

- **Eph 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

† **Also, note his daughters...they are godly young women (remember this is approximately 20 years after Philip went to Samaria, and they’ve grown under godly parenting).**

- **1Ti 3:12** Let the **deacons** be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

**Act 21:10-11** And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

† **Again, Paul encounters prophecy telling him he will face persecution. This is a confirmation of what we read in Acts 20:22-24** And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: 23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. 24 **But none of these things move me**, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

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† **"But none of these things move me" – what do we allow to move us away from following Jesus, or are we are resolute as Paul?**

**Act 21:12-14** And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. 14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

† **Paul questioned them – why are you weeping and trying to break my heart in stopping me from what Jesus has for me?**

† **Paul always ONLY wanted to do the will of the Lord...we think on the words of Jesus after He told the disciples that He would suffer and die: Mar 8:32b-37** ...And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. 33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. 34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

† **"The will of the Lord be done" – this is the epitome of the Christian walk...not "MY" will be done Lord, but YOUR will be done in MY life!**

- **Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- **1Co 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- **The world says the opposite, however: this is my life and I'll do what I want!**

**Act 21:15-17** And after those days we took up our carriages [*suitcases*], and went up to Jerusalem. 16 There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge. 17 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

† **Hospitality...it's so important for Christians! It is one of the ways we show the world we're different:**

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- **Heb 13:1-2** Let brotherly love continue. 2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**Act 21:18-19** And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. 19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

† **Paul is RESPECTFUL and always goes to the leadership...James was the Pastor of the church in Jerusalem and the elders were there too!**

**Act 21:20-26** And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: 21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. 22 What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. 23 Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; 24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. 25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication. 26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

† **Paul was the Apostle to the gentiles...as such, they have no need to keep the law. Paul's actions here are to placate the Jewish Christians who are unfortunately still very legalistic.**

† **The people weren't necessarily interested in the gentiles...they even quoted what they had sent to the gentiles in Galatia...**

† **But the legalism was not part of the gospel, rather part of their customs...Paul to the Romans emphasized this idea: Rom 14:1-6** Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

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† **So, they asked Paul to take a vow – support these four others who had taken a vow and offer sacrifices to Jehovah.**

- **What sacrifices could a Christian Jew offer?**
  - **Burnt Offering – Consecration**
  - **Meat Offering – Service**
  - **Peace Offering - Fellowship**
  
- **But NOT a sin or trespass offering!**

† **Paul’s Approach: 1Co 9:19-22** For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

**Act 21:27-30** And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, 28 Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. 29 (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) 30 And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

† **Their claims were a lie...he hadn’t brought a gentile into the temple and he hadn’t spoken against the law...rather FOR grace.**

† **In Galations, Paul said that the law is a schoolmaster to point us to Christ!**

**Act 21:31-36** And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band [**a commander over 1000: similar to a Colonel**], that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul. 33 Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done. 34 And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle. 35 And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people. 36 For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

† **The Commander wanted to protect the prisoner to allow an interrogation and determination of his guilt...**

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**Act 21:37-40** And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek? 38 Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers? 39 But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people. 40 And when he had given him licence, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying,

† **Paul has turned this into a “Ministry Opportunity” ...he now has permission to preach!**

† **2Ti 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

### III. Conclusion

† **As we conclude...what if you're in this situation where you have a bunch of legalistic people listening...what would YOU say?**

† **Paul said to the Corinthians in 2Co 3:6 {that Jesus}** also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

† **How would you explain the wonderful grace of God to a hostile crowd?**

† **How will you share the gospel in general to anyone?**