

Acts 21:1-17

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 10-25-17

Context

IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
- F. **More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)**

On to Jerusalem (21:1-17)

Vv. 1-6

- V. 4 - "After looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem."
- Contradictory messages?

Vv. 7-17

- Caesarea, built by Herod the Great as the _____ for Jerusalem
- Entered the house of Philip
 - Ch. 6 - one of the "seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom" selected to care for the widows
 - Ch. 8
 - Preached in Samaria
 - Ethiopian eunuch
 - V. 40 - winds up in Caesarea, there for 20+ years
- V. 10 - another prophet, Agabus (cf. 11:27ff.)
 - V. 11 - "And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, 'This is what the Holy Spirit says: "In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'""
 - Another contradictory message?
 - V. 12 - they all pleaded with Paul not to go
 - V. 13 - "I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
 - Like Peter in Luke 22:33, who said, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!"
 - Unlike Peter, he did not _____
 - Group ended the discussion with a prayer, "The will of the Lord be done!"



Reconciling the Spirit's Messages

- How do we account for the seeming contradictions of the Spirit's messages?
 - 19:21 - purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem
 - 20:22-23 - knowing suffering awaits him, the Spirit has bound him to go to Jerusalem

- BUT in 21:4 - “through the Spirit” and from the Spirit begged not to go. Agabus in v. 11 is warning him
- Solution
 - V. 11 - only a _____, not a _____.
 - Similar to 20:23 - “the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me”
 - Not until v. 12 that anyone urges Paul not to go, based upon the prophecy of Agabus.
 - V. 4 - Must be read in context as a condensed way of saying the same thing in v. 11
 - NASB text note: “because of impressions made by the Spirit”
- The main point from Luke: Paul’s _____ and _____
 - Following his master’s footsteps...
 - _____ by Christian fellowship
 - V. 4 - found disciples in Tyre and stayed with them for several days
 - V. 7 - stayed with brethren in Ptolemais for a day
 - Vv. 8, 10 - stayed with Philip a number of days
 - V. 16 - accompanied by disciples on his journey to stay with Mnason
 - V. 17 - received warmly by the brethren in Jerusalem

Concludes section **IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles**. Next week begins with:

- V. On the Way to Rome (21:18-28:31)
 - A. Paul’s arrest and self-defense (21:18-23:35)
 - B. Paul on trial (24:1-26:32)
 - C. Rome at last! (27:1-28:31)

A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE*

<i>Acts narrative</i>	<i>Roman Empire</i>						
AD 30	AD 14-37	The crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus (1:1-11)	Tiberius, emperor	52-55	Paul in Ephesus (19:1 - 20:1a)	52-59	Felix, procurator of Judea
32, 33	26-36	Pentecost (2:1-41)	Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea	55-56	Paul in Macedonia (20:1b-2a)	54-68	Nero, emperor
35 or 36		Stephen is stoned (7:54-60); Saul is converted (9:1-19)		56-57	Paul winters in Corinth (20:2b-3a)		
37-41		Paul's first visit to Jerusalem (9:26-28; Gal. 1:18-20)		57	The voyage to Jerusalem, via Macedonia, Troas and Miletus (20:3b - 21:17)		
43 or 44	37-41	James the apostle is executed (12:1-2)	Caligula, emperor	57-59	Paul is arrested in Jerusalem (21:27-36) and tried before Felix (24:1-22)		
46 or 47	41-44	Paul's second visit to Jerusalem (11:27-30; Gal. 2:1-10)	Herod Agrippa I, king of Judea	59	Paul's Caesarean imprisonment (23:23 - 24:27)		
47, 48	41-54	The first missionary journey (13 - 14)	Claudius, emperor	59-60	Paul is tried before Festus and Agrippa (25:6 - 26:32)	59-61	Festus, procurator of Judea
49	45-47	The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-30)	Famine in Judea	60-62	The voyage to Rome (27:1 - 28:16)		
50-52	49	Paul in Corinth (18:1-18a)	Claudius expels Jews from Rome	64	Paul's Roman imprisonment (28:16ff.)	64	Nero begins persecution of Christians
52	50-c. 93	Paul returns to Syrian Antioch via Ephesus and Caesarea (18:18b-22)	Herod Agrippa II, tetrarch of Northern territory		The probable martyrdoms of Peter and Paul in Rome	70	Fall of Jerusalem
	51-52	The third missionary journey begins (18:23ff.)	Gallio, proconsul of Achaia				

(* Based on the work of Colin Hemer, pp. 159-175 and 251-270, and used by permission.)