



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, February 09 2017.

Topic: Acts 21

INTRODUCTION: There are many questions in the Bible which we might never be able to give answers to until we meet the very characters in heaven. Perhaps someone might want to ask Apostle Paul in heaven why he insisted on going to Jerusalem despite the many prophecies of what will happen to him. In chapter 21, on two occasions, Paul is warned on his way to Jerusalem by sound prophecy that the trip will not be a pleasant one for him. He still decided to go all the same. He finally gets to Jerusalem and James lets him know that many of the Jews have now become believers however they are not happy with him as he was pictured as the master mind behind the people being encouraged to break the Jewish laws. In order to help the situation, he was made to join some Jews who were going through some rituals on vows and to pay for all of them on the last day. This the elders thought will placate the people and they will believe that Apostle Paul actually practices the law of Moses. Unfortunately, when the non-believing Jews saw Paul, they did not give him a chance as they were prepared to kill him. They framed all manner of lies against him and mobbed him. It took the commander to rescue him from their hands and at some point, the soldiers had to physically carry him up to avoid them killing him. Finally, as Paul approached the steps of the barrack, he requested in the Greek Language that he wanted to speak with the Commander. Surprised that he could speak the Greek Language, the commander let him know that he thought he was an Egyptian who caused some insurrection at some point in the past. After this was sorted out, Paul introduced himself to the commander and asked to address the Jews. Permission was therefore granted him.

STUDY OUTLINE

Now it came to pass, that when we had departed from them and set sail, running a straight course we came to **Cos**, the following *day* to **Rhodes**, and from there to **Patara**. ²And finding a ship sailing over to **Phoenicia**, we went aboard and set sail. ³When we had sighted **Cyprus**, we passed it on the left, sailed to **Syria**, and landed at **Tyre**; for there the ship was to unload her cargo. ⁴And finding disciples,^[a] we stayed there seven days.

Light begets light. Paul always sought out believers: Do you seek for believers in your sojourn through life?

1. Why is it good and necessary to seek out believers on occasions like this? Rom 1:11, Heb 13:1
2. In our days, is this often the case? If yes, give an example when you had to seek out believers
3. If no, why not? Phil 2:2-5.
4. Although Paul and his entourage were meeting these brethren for the first time, yet the bond between them was very strong Why do you think so?
5. What manner of bond do you have with other believers? Vs 5-6

They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.

6. What is the function of the Holy Spirit in a church? John 16:13, I Cor 2 10-13
7. Was Paul disobedient to the Holy Spirit or was it that he did not believe them? Vs 12-13 We might find the answer to this question in verse 39-40 of this chapter

⁵When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed. ⁶When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home.

⁷And when we had finished *our* voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day. ⁸On the next *day* we who were Paul's companions^[b] departed and came to Caesarea, and entered

the house of Philip the evangelist, who was *one* of the seven, and stayed with him. ⁹Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. ¹⁰And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his *own* hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

8. Think for a second the relationship between Philip and Paul. Acts 8:1-5. What will you do if you were Philip. Why do we find it so difficult to forgive even after establishing how genuine someone's repentance is?

9. Spiritual gift and its exercise was not limited by Gender in the bible. Vs 10, I Cor 11:5

10. Agabus's manner of prophesying is instructive. II Kings 2:20.

¹²Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

¹⁴So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

11. After Paul rejected every offer not to go to Jerusalem, if you were one of the followers what would you have done? Rom 12:18, 14:19

Paul Urged to Make Peace

¹⁵And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.

¹⁷And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. ¹⁸On the following *day* Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; ²¹but they have been informed about you that you teach

all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children nor to walk according to the customs.

Every pioneer in Christianity will face a huge challenge.

12. This is a worrisome comment. How people could believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and still be a victim to the Law. Rom 3:20

13. Some people have gone ahead to give a false report about Paul to the brethren. Did the people search whether this is true? Do you fact check information before reacting? Do you see how half truth could be dangerous: They said you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. Hosea 4 6a, Col 3:8

14. Are we not victims today to denominations? I Cor 3:4-5

²²What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will^[c] hear that you have come. ²³Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow. ²⁴Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave *their* heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but *that* you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law. ²⁵But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written *and* decided that they should observe no such thing,^[d] except that they should keep themselves from *things* offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.”

15. Did the counsel of the elders work for Paul? Perhaps a repeat of Acts 9:24-25, 29-30 would have worked but would Paul have agreed.

Arrested in the Temple

²⁶Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having been purified with them, entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each one of them.

²⁷Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, ²⁸crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and

furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.” ²⁹(For they had previously^[e] seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

16. The unbelieving Jews attacked Paul and what did the believing Jews do? Acts 12:1-3. When you see one of our brethren in this kind of trouble what should the church do?

Again, you will see the lie they have told to convince every hearer. he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.” ²⁹(For they had previously^[e] seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

³⁰And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. ³¹Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³²He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded *him* to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done. ³⁴And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another.

So when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks. ³⁵When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. ³⁶For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, “Away with him!”

17. The effect of zeal without knowledge leads to sin. Rom 10:2, Phil 1:9, Luke 23:21

Addressing the Jerusalem Mob

³⁷Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, “May I speak to you?”

He replied, "Can you speak Greek? ³⁸Are you not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?"

18. Here again another confusion. How could the soldiers have thought or concluded that Paul was an Egyptian? This is the error in assumption. Since no one could tell him why Paul was being beaten, he simply assumed he was the Egyptian who had caused some confusion in the past. How many times have you judged people by assumption and unfortunately you have stood by your assumption and assumed it as right. James 1:19, Zach 8:16, John 7:24

19. Why did Paul Speak in Greek instead of Aramaic? Matt 10:16

³⁹But Paul said, "I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people."

⁴⁰So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to *them* in the Hebrew language, saying,

20. Finally, it appears this is always what Paul wanted. An opportunity to address the Jews in their own home. Rom 10:1.