

Acts: The Journey to Jerusalem

(Acts 21:1-16)

To Tyre (v. 1-6)

- After Paul parted ways with the Ephesian Elders in Miletus, he and his companions board a ship and sail to the island of Kos, then Rhodes, and switch vessels in Patara to travel 400 miles across open water to the Syrophenician city of Tyre
- Paul & company stay with Christian community there for a week
 - Jesus had visited this city & healed a demon-possessed girl because of her mother's faith (Mark 7:24-30)
 - And there had been missionary activity in the region (Acts 11:19; 15:3)
- While there, the Holy Spirit reveals imminent danger awaits Paul if he returns to Jerusalem
 - The warning of danger was from the Spirit
 - The urging to avoid it was from the Christians there
- After warm farewells, the party continues their journey

Words of Warning (v. 7-14)

- Next, they head to Ptolemais/Acco where they visit with the Church for a day
- Then they travel to the administrative hub of Judea & the port for Jerusalem, Caesarea
 - They stay with Philip the Evangelist, one of the 7 deacons mentioned in Acts 8:40
 - And his 4 daughters, who are described as unmarried & having the gift of prophecy
- While there, Paul is visited by Agabus, a Judean prophet
 - He uses a prophetic type-act to foretell what awaits Paul in Jerusalem
 - Betrayal by his Jewish brethren & arrest by the Romans
 - The implication is that Paul will suffer like Jesus & some of the other Apostles had
- Luke & the others beg Paul not to go to Jerusalem
- Paul's response:
 - Don't cry or try to talk me out of this
 - I am ready to be arrested & even die for Jesus!
 - This is what the Holy Spirit has been preparing him for
- Finally, they consent: 'The Lord's will be done.' (v. 14)
 - What they don't understand is that everything that is about to happen to Paul will give him opportunity to share Jesus with people and in places he never could otherwise
 - It was God's will for him to be arrested

Full Circle (v. 15-16)

- Paul & company leave and make their last stop at the home of Mnason, a Cyprian Christian
 - He is described as an early convert & may have come to know Jesus because of Paul's preaching on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:4ff)
 - Possibly a symbol of Paul's ministry coming full circle

So What?

- Paul was willing to undergo arrest and even death so others would come to know Jesus
 - He was not the first Christian nor the last to do so
- Do we have that kind of resolve to share Jesus?

Meditation Verse: *Philippians 1:21-22a*