

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 45: Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

Acts 21:1-14

- ✓ After over 20 years in ministry and missions, Paul returns for a final time to Jerusalem.

Verses 1-3 – Tyre was a port city in what is today Lebanon.

- ✓ Conquered by Nebuchadnezzar around 600 B.C.
 - ✓ In **Isaiah 23:1**, God predicted that both the harbor and the buildings of Tyre would be destroyed, but Nebuchadnezzar didn't do either.
 - ✓ "Well, I guess God was wrong", some would say. "He missed it", "the Word of God cannot be taken precisely or literally".
 - ✓ In 332 B.C. Alexander the Great did exactly what the word of God predicted throwing the materials of the old city into the sea.
-
-

Verses 4 -14 – First impression might lead us conclude that Paul is making a bad decision here.

- ✓ Looks like he's making mistakes, but all these apparent mistakes are just that – apparent and not real mistakes.
 - ✓ **What you have here are believers adding their opinions to the voice of the Spirit!!!**
 - ✓ Watch what he says again in **verse 11** – That's what God said and that's all He said – there is no "Don't go to Jerusalem" added on.
 - ✓ Paul is following the leadership of the Spirit in going to Jerusalem and ignoring the contradicting voices of other believers.
-
-

1. There are several lessons we can learn here.

- ✓ One lesson is the lesson of steadfastness = doing what you know God has told you to do and sticking with it until its done.
- ✓ Paul does that quite well even in the face of bad advice.

The Second lesson we need to learn here is concerning advice: both giving and receiving advice.

2. Some general advice on advice.

1. Good advice rarely comes lightly or hastily – here the saints don't stop to consider the grand scheme of things they just shoot from the hip.
 - ✓ Ask a strong Christian when looking for advice.
 - ✓ Don't listen to or give any advice that is not thought over and prayed over.
 2. Refrain from giving or taking advice that have emotions tied to them:
 - ✓ The saints here are speaking from emotion and therefore don't give advice in compliance with God's will.
 - ✓ Emotions can lead you to say do almost anything – they are very intoxicating – they control you like alcohol or drugs.
 3. Be careful about giving and receiving advice to or from those you are close to especially if emotions are involved.
 - ✓ The believers were close to Paul and loved him and were not good candidates for advice.
-
-
-

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 45: Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

3. Some advice on giving advice.

1. We all like to give advice; based on our text, we should give less advice than we do.
2. Give advice only to the degree that you have clear biblical principle underlying it.
 - ✓ Did the saints have any Biblical principle underlying their advice? no, they just said "don't go!!!"
3. They said don't go based on what? **Emotions** Which were based on what? Fear of suffering.
 - ✓ Now we all know God doesn't want us to suffer...right?
 - ✓ Jesus told us take up our cross daily and follow Him...a cross is not something you carry to a party!!
 - ✓ Jesus told His disciples to follow Him and then left them and us an unequivocal example of disregard for self-preservation.
 - ✓ Advice based on preserving self with regards to ministry and spiritual matters may not be good advice.
4. The best advice may not be what the majority says:
 - ✓ Paul certainly found that to be true.
