



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 45 – Acts 21

People — Who is involved?

Paul – traveling to Jerusalem
Philip – the evangelist in Caesarea
Agabus – the prophet from Jerusalem
James and the elders of the Jerusalem church
Trophimus – an Ephesian disciple
The commander of the garrison at Jerusalem

Places — Where does it happen?

Paul's itinerary to Jerusalem: Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Cyprus, Tyre, Ptolemais, and Caesarea
In Jerusalem: with the elders of the church, in the temple where Paul is arrested

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 1 – This trip around Asia Minor by sea took Paul to Cyprus and on to Tyre and down to Caesarea on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea.*
- Vs 4 – The disciples at Tyre warned Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. They also warned him at Caesarea.*
- Vs 9 – We are told in Acts 2:17-18 that both men and women would receive the gift of prophecy. Their use of this gift was limited in the assembled worship of the church (1 Cor. 11:5; 14:34-35).*
- Vs 10 – Agabus was identified as a prophet earlier (Acts 11:27-30). Tells Paul what he will face Jerusalem.*
- Vs 16 – Mnason is Cypriot (probably a Hellenist). He would understand keeping Paul and his associates who were Gentiles when other Jews might not.*
- Vs 21 – These accusations are not true. Paul did not teach Jews that they ought not to circumcise their Children or forsake the customs of their culture. We should remember that the Law of Moses was both a civil and religious law. Often these intertwined. Jews were to be law-abiding citizens and they were still under the Law of Moses for some things.*
- Vs 23 – We do not know what the vow taken by these four men entailed. Jewish law and custom provided for several general kinds of personal vows including the Nazarite vow, vows of dedication and/or vows of thanksgiving, etc. Paul himself had participated in taking a vow (Acts 18:18; cf. Num. 19).*
- Vs 24 – Continuing to walk orderly and keep the civil Law and social customs did not compromise faith in Christ. Of course, the religious aspects of the Law were no longer binding on Jewish (or Gentile) Christians with regard to salvation, the conduct of the church, or the conversion of Gentiles.*
- Vs 29 – Irony: Paul is in process of establishing Jewish roots and they accuse him of denying them.*
- Vs 31 – Inscriptions from that period have shown it was a capital crime for foreigners to enter the temple.*
- Vs 38 – Josephus tells of this Egyptian in his Jewish Wars 2.13.5, 261=63.*

Perspectives — What may I learn from this chapter?

1. We must be ready to do God's bidding whatever consequences may follow (v. 13).
2. We should be willing to do what we can conscientiously do to influence all for good in Christ.
3. We should be ready to give a defense of our faith even in times of severe stress.