

## Acts Lesson 12

### Paul Compelled to go to Jerusalem

### Chapters 20-21

**Text: Acts chapters 20-21**

#### **I. Questions for the Bible student**

Pick a few for discussion.

1. In Acts 16:3, Paul had Timothy (or accompanied Timothy?) circumcised. In Gal 2:3, Titus was not. Why the difference? We meet both young men in Acts, near the same time frame.
2. Why would Paul be so steadfast in the decision to go to Jerusalem, when he had so many warnings? Why would Luke include all the warnings?
3. In 21:8, the party stays at Phillip's house, one of the seven from chapter 6. Where have we met Phillip before? Seven what? Who else was on of the seven? Why is Phillip's hospitality so noteworthy? Why Luke would weave in this detail?
4. What is the elder's task, according to 20:28-31?
5. Why would Paul first say that the elders must take heed to themselves, and then to the flock? Is this needful for elders only, or for everyone?
6. In Acts 19:21, Paul mentions his plans to go to Jerusalem and then to Rome. Is this another foreshadowing? If so, of what? How does this compare with the warnings he receives on the way to Jerusalem?
7. In 20:25, what did Paul say he was preaching? Where have we seen that in Acts before? (hint: 1:3, 8:12)
8. In Luke 9:51, we see Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem. In Acts 20 and 21, we see Paul is also resolute to go there. Are there parallels we should draw?
9. Paul makes some claims in 20:20 and 20:27. Should we draw any inferences from these statements regarding the nature of the gospel and continuing revelation?
10. Luke records Peter's statement that he was ready to die for the Lord in Luke 20:33. Then he records a similar statement by Paul in Acts 21:13. How are the circumstances different? How are they the same? Why is Paul able to keep his vow, where Peter on that occasion did not (even though Peter ultimately did)?

#### **II Quick snapshot of where we are**

End of third missionary journey.

Paul is traveling from Macedonia and Greece, back towards Jerusalem, primarily by ship

Paul calls for Ephesian elders to meet him on the coast

**III. Paul's message to the elders of Ephesus**

Beautiful message; encourages them to be faithful, watchful, generous; follow his example

Had given them everything helpful, whole counsel of God

Trouble will arise after he is gone, some within and some without

His love and concern for them is apparent and admirable

**IV. A few other thoughts**

The closeness and brotherhood of the early church, both Jew and Gentile.

The first day of the week.

The motivation of Paul

The difference Jesus makes - Phillip and Paul

John Ostic

jostic@comcast.net