



ACTS – Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 21, 22

Lesson 18

Have you ever felt like people didn't understand you? In these two chapters of Acts, we will see three incidences where Paul was misunderstood. His friends misunderstood his plans; Jerusalem misunderstood his messages, and the Jews misunderstood his ministry. Yet, Paul, was not moved by these things; but rather continued to press on in obedience to God's calling. We have much to learn from these two chapters.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 21,22

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, or Paul*.

Acts 21: Key Words: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Paul*.

Acts 22: Key Words: *God, Jesus, and Paul*
Underline the words of Jesus in red
3. The contrasting word *but* was used five times in Acts 21 and three times in Acts 22. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times (in each chapter) and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used in Acts 21:23. Mark the word; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.



PAUL'S READINESS TO DIE: Read Acts 21:1-14

1. We left chapter 20 with Paul (in Miletus) bidding farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus. Using Acts 21:1-3, trace Paul's journey to Tyre.
2. Paul and his companions stayed in Tyre for seven days. What did the disciples in Tyre tell Paul? verse 4
 - a. What do we know from Acts 20:23?
 - b. Given the stated concern for Paul's safety in Jerusalem and knowing they would not see Paul again, describe how you imagine the scene and the emotions of Paul, his companions, and the other disciples.
3. Who did Paul's companions stay with in Caesarea?
 - a. What do we know about Philip from:
 - Acts 6:5
 - Acts 8:5-40
 - Acts 21:8
 - Acts 21:9

- b. Notice, Philip's daughters *prophesied*. However, we are not told that they *prophesied* regarding Paul's impending trip to Jerusalem. What two things does this teach us about this gift of *prophecy*?
- 4. Rather than prophecy through Philip's daughters, the Holy Spirit chose to use a man named Agabus. Where was he from?
 - a. What did Agabus:
do?

say?
 - b. What was the response of those who were with Paul?
 - c. This was at least the third prophecy regarding Paul's trip to Jerusalem. Reread the following three prophecies and summarize them. (Acts 20:22,23; Acts 21:4, Acts 21:10,11)
- 5. Consider Paul's response in verse 13. Who was he willing to *die* for?
 - a. Consider the response of Paul's companions in verse 14. When they could not persuade Paul, they ceased. Whose will did they want?
- 6. Based on the prophecies given, in going to Jerusalem, Paul was facing certain persecution. Yet, he seemed to feel that he was doing so in accordance with God's will. Few of us are called to a place where persecution awaits us. What are some other examples of God calling us to do something difficult?
 - a. How does knowing what God would have you do help you to face difficult circumstances?

CONCERNING GENTILE BELIVERS: Read Acts 21:15-26

1. This section begins with the words *And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem*. Thus marks the end of Paul's third missionary journey. In Jerusalem, Paul told them *in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry*. Although, *when they heard it they glorified the Lord*, what was the concern expressed in Acts 21:20,21?
2. The leaders in the church of Jerusalem were concerned that Paul was against Jewish customs. What did they tell Paul to do to show that he *walked orderly and kept the law*?
 - a. Although these customs were not requirements for salvation, Jewish customs still applied to the Jew. What did they state in Acts 21:25?
 - 1.) What *had been written* regarding the Gentiles in Acts 15:28,29?
3. Paul complied with their request. What is the difference between compromising God's will and doing something in order to avoid offending someone?
4. What is an example of a rule or tradition that some Christians might make equal to God's word?

PAUL'S ARREST: Read Acts 21:27- 36

1. The Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. What claim did they make against Paul in verse 28?
 - a. What similar accusation was made against Stephen in Acts 6:13?
 - 1.) What was the accusation of Acts 21:28 mistakenly based upon?
2. Write a newspaper article recording the events that followed (verses 30-36).

PAUL'S TESTIMONY: Read Acts 21:37-40, 22:1-21

1. Paul asked to speak to the commander, identifying himself as a Jew from Tarsus. Who did the commander think Paul was?
2. Upon being given permission to speak, Paul shared his testimony. Although Paul could speak Greek, he chose to speak in Hebrew, targeting the Jews rather than the Gentiles. The original account was recorded in Acts 10. Acts 22:14 discloses what God appointed for Paul. List these three things.
 - a. What would Paul do? verse 15
 - 1.) In what ways are God's desires, as stated in verses 14,15, His desires for all believers?
3. The details of verses 17-21 were not previously mentioned. What happened?
 - a. Paul chose to share his own story rather than reason with them that Jesus is the Christ. When is it useful to share your personal experiences with others?

PAUL'S CITIZENSHIP: Read Acts 22:22-30

1. *And they listened to him until this word.* What did Paul say in verse 21 that angered them?
 - a. The Jews wanted to exclude Gentiles from God. What beliefs are behind attempts to exclude people from God?
2. How angry were the people in this mob?
3. What did Paul say that stopped the centurion from scourging him?
4. What happened *the next day*? verse 30

S AND EVEN THE HIGH PRIEST. STAY TUNED. . . .

REVIEW: Read Acts 21,22

1. What can we learn from Paul's:
 - ignoring of the warnings to not go to Jerusalem?
 - adjusting his behavior for the sake of others?
 - ignoring the accusation made against him and seizing the opportunity to share Jesus?
 - boldness?
 - persistent efforts to reach out to the Jews?
 - handling of being misunderstood?
2. What are some misunderstandings about Christianity that people have today?
3. Share one thing you especially admire about Paul and why.
4. What do you think Paul knew about Jesus that compelled him to speak of Him?

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain;
but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I,
but the grace of God which was with me.
- 1 Corinthians 15:10*

Observation Worksheet

Acts 21:1-40

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. ² And finding a ship sailing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³ When 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. ⁴ And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem. ⁵ When 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. ⁶ When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home. ⁷ And when we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day. ⁸ On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. ⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. ¹⁰ And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ When 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.' " ¹² Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then 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." ¹⁴ So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done." ¹⁵ And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶ Also 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. ¹⁷ And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. ¹⁸ On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹ When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰ And 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; ²¹ but 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. ²² What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come. ²³ Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow. ²⁴ Take 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. ²⁵ But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written

and decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality."

²⁶ Then 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. ²⁷ Now 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, ²⁸ crying 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 seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) ³⁰ And 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. ³¹ Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³² He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³ Then 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. ³⁴ And 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. ³⁵ When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. ³⁶ For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!" ³⁷ Then 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?" ³⁸ Are you not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?" ³⁹ But 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." ⁴⁰ So 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,

Acts 22:1-30

"Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now." ² And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said: ³ "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, ⁵ as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished. ⁶ Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground

and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' ⁸ So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' ⁹ And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. ¹⁰ So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' ¹¹ And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. ¹² Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, ¹³ came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. ¹⁴ Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. ¹⁵ For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' ¹⁷ Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance ¹⁸ and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' ¹⁹ So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. ²⁰ And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' ²¹ Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.' " ²² And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!" ²³ Then, as they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. ²⁵ And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" ²⁶ When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman." ²⁷ Then the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes." ²⁸ The commander answered, "With a large sum I obtained this citizenship." And Paul said, "But I was born a citizen." ²⁹ Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him. ³⁰ The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he released him from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.