



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

ACTS 21:1-26

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (Part-iii)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Hospitality in the Journey (1-18): How many homes did Paul stay in this section? What does bible have to teach us about hospitality to believers?

Paul's meeting with Philip (8-9): Who is this Philip? What does Bible say about women prophets (I Corinthians 14:34,35, I Timothy 2:11,12)

Paul's meeting with Prophet Agabus (10-13): What was the prophecy? What was Paul's response to prophet's warning? Is it surprising?

Paul's journey ends at Jerusalem (14-26): Paul's report and reaction; What was Paul advised to do by the elders and why? Does it contradict Paul's preaching?

Paul's response to Holy Spirit: Is there any contradiction in Paul's response to Holy Spirit leading (Acts 19:21, 20:22, 21:4, 21:11)

Personal Reflection: *Paul has completed his 3rd missionary Journey and many souls have been saved for eternity ... have we started our journey yet? What is hindering us?*

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey: Main stops



- Acts 18:22-23 (started in **Antioch** and traveled through Galatia)
- Acts 19: Ephesus
- Acts 20:1 (Macedonia, Greece ... travels back through Macedonia)
- 20:6 Sailed from Philippi to Troas
- 20:15 Miletus
- 21: Miletus to **Jerusalem**

Hospitality in the Journey (1-15)

How many homes did Paul stay in this section?
What does bible have to teach us about hospitality to believers?

Christian Hospitality

- How many homes hosted Paul in this section?
 - Disciples @ Tyre (4)
 - Bretheren @ Ptolemais (7)
 - Philip @ Ceasarea (8)
 - Mnasaon @ Jerusalem (16)
 - Bretheren @ Jerusalem (17)
- Parting with prayers ... “we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed” (5)
- Christian homes provided rest and refreshment for Paul; it must have also been a blessing to the hosts as Paul must have ministered to them.

Scriptures encourage and commend hospitality

- Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality (**Romans 12:13**)
- Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling (**1 Peter 4:9**)
- Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers (**Hebrews 13:2**)
- Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, (**Romans 16:23**)
- Elders ... must be hospitable (**Titus 1:8, 1 Timothy 3:2**)

Proverbs 11:25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Paul's meeting with Philip (8-9)

Who is this Philip?

Bible on women prophets (I Corinthians 14:34,35, I Timothy 2:11,12)

Paul at Philip's home

- **Philip** ... one of the seven deacons chosen (Acts 6:5)
 - full of Holy Ghost and wisdom (Acts 6:3)
 - ... ministry in Samaria (Acts 8:5) and to Eunuch (8:37)
 - ... recognized here as an 'evangelist' (8)

Philip's children ... four daughters who prophesied

I Corinthians 14:34-35 (NIV) Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

I Timothy 2: 11-12 (NIV) A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. [12](#)I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.

Women can serve the Lord in many ways
& are valuable partners in His vineyard

Paul's meeting with Prophet Agabus (10-13)

What was the prophecy?

What was Paul's response to prophet's warning?

Is it surprising?

Prophet Agabus and Paul

- Dramatic demo of bondage that awaited Paul at Jerusalem and urges Paul not to go (Agabus prophesied about famine in Acts 11:27-30)
- **Paul's response** "I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (similar to Acts 20:24)

Paul's passion and dedication to His God given mission is inspiring!
How many of us will board a ship if Prison awaits us on arrival?

Paul's 3rd missionary journey ends at Jerusalem (14-26):

Paul's report to James & elders

What was Paul advised to do by the elders and why?

Does it contradict Paul's preaching?

Paul with James & elders in Jerusalem

- Paul's report & reaction

- James (could be brother of Lord Jesus, or some other James)
- **REPORT:** What things God had done among gentiles (19)
- **REACTION:** When they heard it, they glorified the Lord and note that thousands of Jews were also saved (20)
 - God is the source of blessings in our ministry and glory should go back to Him (and not to individuals)

Paul with James & elders in Jerusalem

- **Misunderstanding about Jewish laws**
 - Jews must reject the customs and practices of the Mosaic law (21)
 - Is that what Paul preached? (**No**; Paul himself kept some of the customs as he was raised Jewish)
 - **JESUS** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Mathew 5:17, NIV)

Elders 'strange' advice to Paul (22-26)

- Paul must join 4 people who have taken a Jewish vow (maybe Nazarene vow)
- **What was Elders reasoning for this advice? What was Paul's response? Does it compromise Paul's teaching?**
- **Were gentiles subject to the same counsel as Jews?**

As seen before
in Acts 16

Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

- Paul circumcises Timothy (not for salvation) but to be received by Jews so that they can more easily preach the gospel.
- It does not compromise Paul's original doctrinal position that **salvation is by grace alone for both Jews and gentiles!** That has been discussed and concluded in Acts 15!
- His view on salvation by grace alone is repeated in many of his epistles.

Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

- We can consider Paul's decision as a cultural adjustment for the sake of gospel ... I Corinthians 9:19-23 ... "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some"

In Galatians 2:3-5 and Acts 15, Paul did not agree as it would have compromised the doctrine.

Paul's final charge to Timothy emphasizes the need to stay true to the doctrine (II Timothy 4:1-3)

- Jesus hated sin, but loved sinners ... "Paul was strong in faith, but soft in love" (Luther) ... we can win more people by showing true love ... sincere love opens many doors!

Back to Acts 21

- Does Paul's decision in verse 26 compromise Paul's teaching or doctrines?

No (see previous 2 slides)

Yet, we need to be careful in taking such positions (it should not weaken our faith, nor become a stumbling block for others)

- Were gentiles subject to the same counsel as Jews?

No (25)

Prompting of the Holy Spirit

Is there any contradiction in Paul's response to Holy Spirit leading?
(Acts 19:21, 20:22, 21:4, 21:11)

Holy Spirit leading Paul to Jerusalem

What does the Holy Spirit seem to say?	Paul's Decision
Acts 19:21 ... GO (Paul) Acts 20:22 ... GO (Paul) Acts 21:4 ... NO (disciples, out of love) Acts 21:11 ... NO (Agabus, warning) Acts 23:11 ... YES (Jesus)	GO For Paul, soul of lost sinners of more value than his personal life

God's will must take preeminence in our life

John 4:34

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Paul's response to God's will:

?

God's will must take preeminence in our life

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. **John 4:34**

Paul was:

- confident of God's will
- committed to obeying God's will

How about us?

Do we know God's will?

Do we obey God's will?

Know + Obey = Blessed position!

Personal Reflection

Paul has completed his 3rd missionary Journey and many souls have been saved for eternity ...

*have we started our mission journey yet?
What is hindering us?*

