

Saturday, June 17, 2023 ◻ Read Acts 21:1–14

Questions from the Scripture text: What do vv1–3 detail? In what manner? What/whom do they find in v4? What do they do now? What are these disciples saying to whom (cf. v11–12)? What were Paul and company doing in v5? Who accompanied them? What did they do on the shore? Right before what (v6)? To whom did they come and stay with in v7? When do they go where in v8? To whose house? What sort of family was this by now (v9)? Who else comes down (v10)? What does he do in v11? What does he say will happen? Now who joins in trying to persuade Paul not to go up to Jerusalem? What question does Paul ask in v13? What two things is he ready for? For what purpose? How does this teach/lead them to respond instead (v14)?

How do believers properly treasure one another and their fellowship in the Word? Acts 21:1–14 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord’s Day. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **believers properly treasure one another and their fellowship in the Word by responding to it together in love, faith, and submission toward God.**

Treasuring the Brethren. After spending so much text and emphasis on the brief interview with the Ephesian elders, the Holy Spirit now starts rushing us along with Paul toward Jerusalem. It seems that just one thing can slow him down: spending time with disciples. He finds disciples at Tyre and stays there seven days (v4). We don’t know of any other connection between the Paul and the church at Tyre, but by the time they’ve spent a week together, their hearts are closely knit to one another. Not only the men but their wives and children accompany Paul and his companions to the beach, where all kneel down and pray together (v5) before saying final greetings and departing (v6). Again, in Ptolemais, they greet the brethren and spend time with them (v7). Finally, in Caesarea, they seek out Philip and stay with him for many days.

Hearing the Word. It is interesting that the Spirit doesn’t only tell Paul the things in v4 and v11 directly. We know from 20:23 that he has heard this before—either directly by the Spirit or through others who prophesied. But he does know that chains and tribulations await him. And the Spirit keeps on telling him that. We see two things about hearing the Word here: we see that even those who speak the Word must hear it as well, and we also see that often we need to hear the same thing several times. The Lord only has to say something once for Himself, but He accommodates our own needs by telling us the same, necessary truths over and over again.

Right Use of the Word. It is interesting that in addition to the facts of Paul’s upcoming shackles and tribulations (v11, cf. 20:23), both the disciples in Tyre (v4) and the disciples in Caesarea, together even with Luke and others (v12), urge Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

But God wasn’t telling Paul about the persecution in order that he might avoid it, but rather that he might embrace it. Hearing that he might be bound for the Name of the Lord Jesus stirred up in him a love for the Name of the Lord Jesus: He is worth being bound for! Hearing that he might die for the Name of the Lord Jesus stirred up in him a love for the Name of the Lord Jesus: He is worth dying for!

Our effect upon the brethren. Sadly, the brethren negatively affect Paul. Sometimes, when we respond strongly (“weeping”) but wrongly to events, we negatively affect others as well (“breaking my heart”). But happily, Paul positively affects the brethren. They see that nothing can persuade them to give up his plan for service and witness to the Lord, and their spirits too, now, come into submission. “We ceased, saying, ‘the will of the Lord be done.’” Let us always keep in mind that we either encourage or discourage others by how we respond to the providence of God.

How does your treasuring the brethren show up in your prayers, your time, and your wallet? When you are hearing the same thing from the Word over and over, how do you go about keeping a soft heart toward it? In what situations are you in danger of discouraging the brethren? How can you encourage others to submit to the will of the Lord together with you.

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for the fellowship that You give us with one another in the faith and in Your Word. Give us to trust Your good will and encourage one another in love, service, and obedience, we ask through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP16A “Keep Me, O God” or TPH409 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Acts 21 verses 1 through 14. These are god's words. Now, it came to pass that when we had departed from them and set sail. Running a straight course. We came to coast following day to roads from there to patara. And finding a ship sailing over to venetia. We went to board and sat sale.

When we decided cypress, we passed it on the left sailed to Syria and landed a tire for there. The ship was to unload their cargo. And finding disciples. We stayed there seven days. They told paul through the spirit, not to go up to jerusalem. When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on their way and they all accompanied us with wives and children.

Till we were out at the city. And we note down on the shore prayed. We're taking our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home. And when you, when we had finished, our voids from tire, we came tiptolamas great to the brethren. And stayed with them one day.

On the next day, we who are paul's companions departed and came to cesarea. And entered the house of philip, the evangelist. Who is one of the seven and stayed with him. Now, this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied And as we stayed many days, a certain profit named agabus came down from today.

When he had come to us, he took paul's belt. Bound has own hands and feet and said, thus says the holy spirit. So so the Jews are jerusalem, bind. The man who owns the spout and deliver him, the hands of the gentiles. Now, when we heard these things with we, and those from that place pleaded with him, Not to go up to jerusalem.

And Paul answered. What do you mean by weaving and breaking my heart? From not ready, only to be bound. But also to diet jerusalem for the name. Of the lord jesus. So, when he would not be persuaded, we ceased Saying the will of the lord. Be done. Some father reading of god's inspired and their entwarked.

Even though. Paul has an extraordinary calling and he is an extraordinary season of his life. You guys the extraordinary calling of apostle and he's in the extraordinary season. Of going to his trial and his imprisonment. Um, and facing the real possibility of death. Uh, yet. What he goes through and how he approaches his life.

It was very similar to Our own life, our own experience. The first great thing that we see that is a similarity. Is the treasuring of the brethren. And he's in a hurry, we're back into this kind of Fast forward rapid fire. Description of his traveling.

Departing from my latest coming to cost going to roads going to pataro sailing definitions. Passing cypress landing in Syria landing. It sailing to Syria landing. Entire Um, That's, It's very hurried, not only in. Uh, the Actual reality of what's happening. But even in the way, it is told The spirit is conveying that to us.

Uh, said that when verse 4 says, and finding disciples, We stayed there seven days. He communicates to us, a great treasure is To find believers to get to know believers to spend time with believers. And, The spirit is working among them as he's working among others. Of course, the new testament not having been written yet.

It's Time of, A special revelation, particularly special revelation at this point. About what is going to happen to paul. Which is already been happening to him in every city, and when he says in every city in Now chapter 20 and verse 23. The implication is not just that the holy spirit is Telling paul this, and his mind and his heart.

But that, every city he goes to where there are those who are speaking directly by the spirit in each of the churches, There's always a word for paul about how he is going to have chains and trouble. When he gets to jerusalem. Uh, so it's no different. Here, when he gets to tire, And they tell him.

Not to go up to jerusalem, that, of course, is their own application. As we see. The. In more detail. What happens when he's staying with philip and caesarea and agabus comes down from judea. And he gives the message and then fill up, and his family and agabus, and even luke and his other traveling companions, everyone saying, don't go That's the wrong application of the right information.

But the reason for the wrong application is how much they Uh, they love paul and how grieved they are. At the idea of trouble. Coming to him. We ought to be much, very willing. That we ourselves should endure much for the sake of christ, but it's not wrong. To.

Wish that we could spare, if we could. Others. More on that in a moment. What you see how great a discovery? It was to find believers that they stayed there seven days. And you see how quickly and profoundly. Their hearts get knit together. That when paul has to continue on his journey, Not just the men, but the wives and the children they all go with paul.

They go all the way out of the city. Not only all the way out of the city all the way to the shore. Uh, every you know, they go as far as they can. Um, Except for, Kind of getting on the on the boat. And they kneel down together and they pray together.

The preciousness. Of meeting. Believers? Knowing believers. Growing to love them. And, Praying with them sharing in the word of god with them. And praying with them. And the word. And prayer. Indeed that fellowship that we have in the worship of god. In the means of his grace and the parts of his worship is the greatest fellowship that believers had The believers have even today, it's the greatest fellowship that we have as a family.

These times, especially we have lots of fellowship and lots of different things. But especially in the word and in prayer together. By the times of our greatest fellowship and that's true of the church family as well. Eating and hanging out. God, have mercy socializing. Is the lowest form of the congregation's fellowship?

That is not to be compared. To clinging to the word of god together. Attending upon the word of god together. Attending. Upon prayer together for truly. We attend upon him together in his word. We attended on in. Together in prayer. Now, there is the right use of the word.

The holy spirit was. Warning, paul in order to stir up. In him. The. Conviction of the preciousness. Of the name of jesus christ. So he would keep hearing you're going to have trouble and he would conclude jesus's name as we're trouble. And he would keep hearing, you're going to be bound and he would conclude jesus's name is worth being bound.

And he would wonder when he was told that he's going to have trouble and he's going to be bound. Am i going to die? And he would conclude jesus's name is worth. Dy. And, Uh, when the holy spirit tells us things like for many tribulations, we must enter the kingdom of god.

We say entering the kingdom of God is worth many tribulations. He says everyone who desires to live in a godly life in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution. We say living a godly life in christ, jesus is worth suffering persecution. When he says every son whom God loves, he chastens to produce in him.

The peaceful fruit of righteousness and the holiness that we need. In order to see the lord, we say righteousness and holiness and seeing the lord is worth painful discipline. And so, it's not just that, we should hear the word together, but that's, we should seek to make, right? Use of the word.

And if these Believers were more mature in their faith. And understanding, and Were like-minded to the apostle in it. Uh, they would have been affirming these things with him and praying for boldness as they suffer. Kind of like when in the early part of the book, you remember they were suffering and they didn't pray to be released from the suffering.

They didn't say, Let's scatter to the wind. They prayed. That what god has purposed. He would accomplish and that he would give them. Boldness. To testify. To the gospel. And so it's, uh, It's a help to us. When there are those who make right? Use the word because we do have an effect upon one another They had a great effect upon paul so much so that he ended up telling him to stop.

Because they're weeping. Was not. They're weeping had an effect on them. He wasn't he wasn't immune. They said your weeping is breaking my heart. Stop it. Uh, but he also had an effect upon them, didn't he? Because when he testified, That the name of jesus's worth. Being bound and even dying.

That brought them into line with the word of god and the spirit of god. And when he would not be convinced, Uh, he ended up having the decisive effect upon

them. And they stopped. Trying to convince him not to go. And instead said, the will of the lord be done.

I'm sure they had an idea of what they hoped the will of the lord would be. That paul would somehow be prevented. And praise god, the will of the lord over rules us often. When we are doing wrong things, as we all see. Soon, when paul the apostle is going to go over a blood sacrifice of the temple decades.

After. Uh, christ's once, for all sacrifice ended. The propriety of blood sacrifices. Wow. And god is going to interrupt him. But they had their idea of what they wanted, the will of the lord to be. I'm sure each one. Differently. And we often all of us. Have an idea of what we want, the will of the lord to be.

But submitting. To the will of the lord means. Being more. Hopeful that what the Lord wills would happen then? That what we will? What happened? And indeed. He had a beneficial effect upon them. To help them come into that submissive submissive spirit towards and And we too, Uh, we ought to Purpose.

Well. And be willing to suffer and be willing to die if necessary. Desiring to know, other christians. I have fellowship with them especially in worship and it means of grace together. Desiring that. As little harm as possible, would come to them. But only those things, there's pains that are absolutely necessary for their good would come to them and then in all of that, Desiring to have an effect on one another.

That. By the spirit helping us and the spirit helping them. A spirit would even use us to help them in the spiritually when you use them to help us. So that We are all. Brought into submission to brought into line with. The mind of christ in the scriptures of mind of the spirit.

In the scriptures. And we know ultimately what the will of the lord is. That we would be made, holy. That we would be brought. Into glory. That we would be eventually resurrected. And then with perfected body, and perfect and soul. Would fully enjoy God. And perfect. Holiness forever. Perfect, happiness forever.

That's the will of the lord long-term. And if you know that, that is how the will of the lord ends. How could we shrink back? From whatever the will of the lord is, or how could we reject? Even if We do shrink back. And, Um, tremble. And are in great pain.

At the, Difficulty in the providence of the prospect of the difficulty. Yet, we are able to submit ourselves. Because the lord is worth it. And what he has willed to do. Um, Through us, through us for us. There's also worth it. Some of the Lord help us to. Meditate upon this portion of this word.

Especially as we come. Lord willing to hear. This portion, preached. The Lord said morning. Let's ask a spirit to help us. We pray. Father, we pray. Lord Jesus. You would give us The ministry of your spirit. That dwelling apart at meditating upon this portion of your word. You would give us to remember the preciousness of believers.

And especially worshiping with them. And to treasure them, and the fellowship that we have. And worshiping you together. We pray, lord that you would help us. To be mindful. Not only of. Rightly understanding your word but rightly responding from the heart. From our desires. And our actions. To your word, help us o, lord to Be mindful of care about the effect that we have on our brother's desiring.

That you would use us for their sanctification. And for building up. And helping. Our brothers and sisters in christ. And we do pray that your will would be done whatever it is. And that your spirit would give us a submissive heart all of this. Oh lord, we ask that your spirit would do.

Especially by use of this portion of your word in our mind, and our heart. Conforming us to christ. We ask In his name.