

A Sober Warning at Tyre

Text: Acts 21:1-6

Introduction:

Paul is ultimately on his way to Jerusalem, where he knows very well that trials and tribulations await him. He has just finished speaking to the Ephesian elders at Miletus, and after sharing a tearful farewell, they have accompanied him to the ship. This morning, we head with Paul to Tyre, an essential port city of Phoenicia, just north of Galilee (in Syria).

I. A Sober Warning at Tyre

"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. And finding a ship sailing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. 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" (vs. 1-3).

And so, Paul and his companions sail around the remaining southern portion of Asia Minor, from Miletus to Cos to Rhodes, and then to Patara. From Patara, they then cut across the Mediterranean Sea, passing alongside of Cyprus (passing Cyprus on the right, Cyprus being on their left) and finally docking in at Tyre, where the ship needed to unload its cargo before continuing down along the coast of Galilee and Samaria.

As the ship unloads its cargo, Paul and his companions spend seven days at Tyre, before continuing on then, with their journey. And we are given a little information about something that happened at Tyre, which we will now consider.

"And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem" (vs. 4).

Question #1: During Paul's short time at Tyre, what happens? What does this mean, and is Paul contradicting the Spirit's directive when he continues on to Jerusalem?

Question #2: Was Paul aware that something like this might happen [See Acts 20:22-23 and reconcile]? Why then would the Spirit reveal this to the Christians, there at Tyre? What purpose might this serve (for them, for Paul, for us)?

Question #3: Read Acts 21:10-14. This happened at Caesarea, soon after his time in Tyre. Who pleads with Paul not to go to Jerusalem, here? What, if anything, does this contribute to our understanding of what has happened at Tyre? Again, what purpose might this serve?

Question #4: What relevance does all of this have for us? Can we apply this in any way? [Comment on God's sovereignty in all of this; guiding of ship, disciples found at Tyre...etc]

"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. When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home" (vs. 5-6).

Question #5: Who went with Paul, to accompany him out of the city? Why would all of these go with him? What did they do? What impact might this have had on the children? Apply this to us, today.