

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 22ND–23RD, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

TYRE (ACTS 21:1–6)

THE IMPORTANCE OF THOSE WHO TEACH US

“After we **tore ourselves away** from them...” The Ephesian elders embraced Paul and kissed him, then accompanied him to the ship, where they most likely repeated those actions.

- **Spiritual parents and mentors hold a special place in our hearts. Who are we parenting and mentoring?**

ON TO JERUSALEM

Paul and his companions continued sailing south/southwest towards Jerusalem. Crossing from Patara, they hit the open Mediterranean Sea, passed south of the island of Cyprus, and landed on the west coast of Syria in Tyre.

- **There's beauty to the “mundane” work of our God who is active in all things.**

WHO DO WE LISTEN TO?

Paul met with the Christians in Tyre, who “through the Spirit” told Paul not to go to Jerusalem. In 20:22, Paul said that the Spirit was compelling Him to go and that chains and afflictions waited for him. Was Paul wrong?

- **Even though Paul's suffering was predicted, he didn't feel God's prohibition.**

THE BEAUTY OF PRAYER GATHERINGS

After seven days, these Christians who had never met Paul accompanied him to the boat, knelt with him, and prayed over him. As they got on the boat, the Tyre Christians went back to their homes to continue their work for Jesus.

- **There are times for kneeling in prayer and times for getting up to go to work.**

CAESAREA (ACTS 21:7–14)

PHILIP'S HOSPITALITY

Hugging the western coast, Paul stopped in Ptolemais for a day and greeted the Christians there. From Ptolemais, they came to Caesarea, where they stayed with Philip the evangelist. He had earned that designation through his work in Samaria, with the Ethiopian official, and on the way to Caesarea (8:4–8, 26–40).

PHILIP'S DAUGHTERS, THE PROPHETESSES

The gift of prophecy was given to both men and women in the New Testament (Acts 2:17–18 from Joel 2:28–32; 1 Corinthians 11:5; 14:5). While the NT prophetic gift isn't the same as the prophets of the OT (NT prophecy can be tested; 1 Corinthians 14:29–33), it is still a gift for today, primarily through **forthtelling**, not **foretelling**.

AGABUS AGAIN

We first met Agabus in Acts 11 when he came to Antioch and predicted a severe famine throughout the Roman world. The famine would have particularly devastating effects on the Christians in Jerusalem/Judea, which prompted Paul to raise money for them throughout all three missionary journeys.

- This time, very much like an OT prophet (see Jeremiah 27–28 and Ezekiel 4), Agabus acted out Paul's binding and arrest with Paul's own belt. Even though his friends pleaded with him, Paul would not relent in his trek towards Jerusalem. So, the people relented.
- **“Not my will, but Yours, be done.”**

JERUSALEM (ACTS 21:15–25)

THE COURAGE OF CONVICTION

Even though Paul's companions and the disciples from Caesarea knew the likely outcome of his visit to Jerusalem, they still accompanied him, no matter the cost.

- **Convictional courage empowers otherwise ordinary people to do extraordinary things in Jesus' name.**

A PLACE TO STAY AND A WARM WELCOME

Mnason of Cyprus was unafraid to house Paul and his companions. He was an early Hellenistic Jewish convert, like Barnabas. Paul was not only welcomed by Mnason but also by the Christians in Jerusalem, most of whom were Jewish converts to Christianity.

- **There's great power in encouragement.**

MEETING WITH LEADERSHIP

After Paul arrived, he met with James (the half brother of Jesus) and the other elders of the Jerusalem church to report how God was working in the Gentiles around the world, causing them to glorify God.

- **Testimonies are powerful ways to give God glory for His work in and around us.**

THE DANGERS OF GOSSIP AND HEARSAY

Many Jews were coming to faith in Jesus but held a deep conviction for the ceremonial law of the Old Covenant. Rumors spread that Paul wanted to rid them of any connection to their ethnic faith.

- **Paul loved his fellow Jews. He was connected to religious practices but not saved by them, an important distinction.**

A HEALTHY COMPROMISE THAT'S NOT HYPOCRITICAL

Similar to his vow in Acts 18:18, the leaders suggested Paul help four Jewish Christian men fulfill their Nazirite vow. In this way, he could remain all things to all men with the goal of winning all to Jesus (1 Corinthians 9:19–23).

- **We won't compromise the majors, but we also won't put up barriers to the gospel.**

DOES GOD LEAD HIS PEOPLE TO SUFFER?

- The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert to suffer temptation by Satan (Mark 1:12).
- The Spirit led Paul to Jerusalem, where chains and afflictions awaited him.
- **Suffering demonstrates that Jesus is more desirable than anything the world offers, which causes people to consider Him.**

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY

- Both those who are with us currently and those who have been with us in the past remind us that God created us for gospel-fueled relationships.
- Satan wants to isolate us by having us focus on our **hurts** rather than our **healing**.
- In Christ, two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12).

WHERE HAS COURAGE GONE?

- Too many churches bow to the whims of culture, desiring acceptance from the world rather than a “well done” from Jesus.
- Cultures come and go. **Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**
- Convictional courage creates a people unafraid to say, “Thus says the Lord.”

LOVE FUELS OBEDIENCE

- Paul loved his fellow Jews. While he would never compromise the gospel, he did what he could to **build bridges** for his people.
- Paul loved Jesus, which meant he obeyed Him, even if it cost him his life.
- **If we say we love Jesus and people, what difference does it make in how we live?**