

ONE message. people. mission.



On to Rome

Acts 21-22.29

Main Idea

Those most familiar with the word that points to Christ were the ones that missed it entirely...God is moving amongst the Gentiles for His glory.

Setup

From Acts 21-28 the author is getting Paul to Rome and along the way we will see the Jews constantly reject Paul and his Gospel while the gentiles find no fault. By the end we will see a metaphorical shift of ministry from Jerusalem (Jews: 21) to Rome (Gentiles: 28)

Overview

- **Prophecies of the disciples & Agabus tell Paul that his mission to Jerusalem will be received with a “binding” of Paul**
 - 21.4, 10-12: All tell of hard times awaiting Paul and they urge Paul not to go
 - Paul is determined to get to Jerusalem and doesn't care if he has to be imprisoned or even killed for the Christ (21.13-14)
- **Paul is warmly received by the disciples in Jerusalem**
 - Paul shares all the stories of the 3rd Missionary journey (21.17-19)
 - They Glorify God because of what He has done (21.20)
- **Jewish Christians think Paul is opposed to Law & customs (21.21)**
 - James comes up with a plan to communicate that he is not entirely opposed to the Law
 - He pays off vows of 4 men so others will see he isn't opposed to the Law (21.23-24)
 - Paul is not opposing the Gospel but doing what he says in 1 Cor. 9.20
 - Removing unnecessary barriers to the Gospel that others may get it
- **Paul goes along with gig: Jews see him in the Temple & Attack him (21.28-29)**
 - (30-36): Whole city gets stirred and beat Paul
 - Roman Tribune gets soldiers and stops the beating but lock him up
- **Before being taken away Paul speaks his testimony to Jews that have tormented him**
 - Establishes robust Jewish lineage: 22.1-5
 - Identifies himself as one that also persecuted Christians
 - Sets them up in such a way as to expect a hearing from God to bring about so great a change
 - Relates miraculous salvation: 22.6-21

- Shares that he was commissioned to Gentiles (22.28)
 - Communicates that the Gentiles are on the same plane as Jews
 - Jews see as blasphemy: 22.29
- **Romans attempt to flog Paul but he confesses his Roman citizenship**
 - Romans do not flog him
 - These will be the first steps towards Paul getting to Rome
 - Romans 11: Communicates God's rejection of the Jews (though still holding out hope) and His activity now among the Gentiles

Questions

Discussion starter: Have you ever been persecuted for your faith? Discuss.

1. Read Acts 21:10-14. (Regarding the prophecies of persecution) Why is it the Jews will be so adamantly opposed to Paul?
2. Read 21:21-24. Why did they believe that Paul was opposed to Moses (Law)? How does this compare to what Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 9:20?
3. What are some things in our current society that many similarly confuse about what we believe? How can we counteract such ideas?
4. How do Law and Gospel oppose one another? How do Law and Gospel fit together? (cf. Gal. 5:1, 13)
5. Where do you live in "Law" and not in "Gospel?"
6. How does Paul's willingness to go along with James' plan teach us today?
7. Read 21:37-40. How do we see Paul recognizing his audience and speaking to them in an appropriate context? Discuss how this might happen in your own contexts.
8. Read 22:6-21. Discuss how Paul views his life as less important than the Gospel and why given his testimony.
9. Read through Romans 11 and talk about why the Lord is shifting his activity to the Gentiles and then call to mind how we might be much like the Israelites that turned away the Gospel when they had a privileged position to it.

Accountability Question: How can you practically work against neglecting "so great a salvation?"