



## Acts 21—Toward Jerusalem

August 25

**REVIEW:** [Acts \(10–28\)](#)

**CONTEXT:** Christians, including Paul, had been obeying Christ's command to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). As the Gospel had gone forth, it did so with ever broadening circles. Paul had completed 3 missionary journeys and had an eye on Rome. First it was God's plan that he visit Jerusalem—come what may!

Today's passage allows us a break after several weeks of heavier ones!

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Ro 16:17–20)

- What famous last words have you heard?
- Why were Paul's last words, in his letter, about false teaching?
- What is false teaching?
- Why is false teaching so deadly?
- How do we recognize false teaching?
- What hope do believers have in the face of false teaching?

**READ:** Acts 21:1–16

**QUESTIONS:**

1. *Paul had just bid farewell to the Ephesians after spending some three years establishing the church there. Now he was bound for Jerusalem. The Spirit had prompted Paul to go (Acts 20:22, c.f. Acts 23:11). The ominous warnings about going to Jerusalem that Paul received (1 Pe 2:21) mirror Jesus' own journey toward the cross (Lk 9:51, 13:33–35, 18:31–33).*
2. **As mundane as the account of a 400 mile journey in vv. 1–3 may be, what do they reveal about the trustworthiness of Acts?**
3. **V. 4a- In just a few short decades, how is v. 4a evidence of the Gospels spread? (see also v. 7)**
4. **V. 4b- Reminiscent of 1 Ki 22:22, what strikes you about this verse? Why would and how can we explain, why the**

**Holy Spirit would reveal two wills of God, one to go and one not to go? (see this contrast in vv. 11–12; also Aug 1 sermon on Predestination).**

5. **V. 5-** Never having met Paul, what does this encounter speak to Christian love? Of the place of prayer?
6. **V. 8-** *Philip was one of the early Deacons, and an evangelist (see Acts 6 and 8).*
7. **V. 9-** Why does Luke point out they were unmarried? Why do you think they prophesied (i.e. declared from God)?
8. **Vv. 10–11-** *Agabus (c.f. famine in Acts 11:28). A prophet was a man who declared the will of God, in this case, through symbolism, God's will for the future. What did Agabus prophesy?*
9. *Though Scripture does say to test the spirits (1 Cor 14:29; 1 Thes 5:20–1; 1 Jn 4:1). How are we to test what we hear today? However, our passage makes it clear that all prophesies here were the will of God (see question 4). As in Ephesus and Tyre, why do the believers in Caesarea, even Luke(!), try to dissuade Paul? What might be the purpose?*
10. **There seems to be a supernatural aspect surrounding Paul's journey to Jerusalem, why might this be so?**

**NEXT TIME:** Sept 1, Acts 24, Paul Before Felix