



Acts: Going to Jerusalem

Oct 11



INTRODUCTION: Having completed his 3rd missionary journey Paul & Co return, not to Antioch, but Jerusalem. What happens to Paul there will set the scene for the final “act” in Acts.

KEY POINT: travel, prophecy, impending trouble, God’s will, suffering as Christ

A.M. SERMON RECAP

(Thanksgiving + Acts 20:1–16, Eutychus)

- Why must we give thanks to the gift giver?

- We catch a number of glimpses of the life of the early church or Paul as a missionary in Acts. Why does Luke give these glimpses?
- What 8 words of “exhortation/encouragement” does this passage speak to us?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 20:17–38, Ephesian Elders)

- What does Paul’s ministry (past) teach us today?
- What does Paul’s knowledge of the future teach us about what matters most?
- What does Paul’s charge to the Ephesians teach us about ministry?

READ: Acts 21:1–16

QUESTIONS:

Today we’ll consider this passage topically vs. chronologically as it presents us with a few clear themes.

Paul in Transit

1. For the first part of the journey he takes a coastal ship; for the latter a sea worthy vessel. Caesarea was the closest port to Jerusalem.
2. Why did they have to spend 7 days at Tyre?
3. **What does it speak about the ever increasing effect of Gospel witness that they were able to find Christians in Tyre, Ptolemais and Caesarea? Even though Christianity has become a small minority today, can we still find fellow believers? What encouragement is this?**

The Prophecies

4. **What is the apparent dilemma about the Holy Spirit’s prophecies in this passage?**
5. How many times (explicit and implicit) did the Spirit or another warn Paul?
6. Can the Holy Spirit be in contradiction?
7. **How might we resolve this apparent dilemma?¹**
8. **How must we always test what someone claims (e.g. 1 Cor 14:29; 1 Jn 4:1)?**

Following Jesus

9. *It is almost certain Paul is paralleling Jesus going to Jerusalem. According to one commentator, like J: 1) Paul travelled to Jerusalem with his disciples, 2) hostile Jews sought him, 3) there were successive predictions of his suffering, 4) he was ready to lay down his life, 5) he was undeterred, and 6) he submitted to God’s will. Discuss.*

10. **1 Pe 2:21- How is Jesus our example in suffering?**
11. **How do our lives parallel Jesus’? (His life, death and resurrection).**

Fellowship

12. **Paul had a difficult journey ahead of him. From Ephesus to Jerusalem, how were God’s people the means along the way through whom God strengthened Paul?**
13. **How are we weak and lost without the support of fellow believers in the church?**

NEXT: Oct 18- Acts 21:37–22:21, Paul Speaks to the People