

TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for October 16-October 22, 2022

“ACTS IN 30” Chapter 21: Paul’s Prophetic Journey to Jerusalem

CHAPTER OVERVIEW: In Acts 21, the Apostle Paul feels compelled to return to Jerusalem in time for the special Festival of Weeks called, “Shavuot” in Hebrew (or “Pentecost” in Greek). During his journey, several disciples and prophets along the way warn Paul what would happen to him if he did go to Jerusalem. Undeterred, Paul travels to Jerusalem where unfortunately, those prophetic words come true.

DAY 1: A Prophetic Warning to Paul from Disciples in Tyre

READ: Acts 21:1-14

REFLECT: On his journey back to Jerusalem, Paul and Luke stop in Tyre and visit with some disciples there. They warn Paul what would happen to him if he went back to Jerusalem (vs. 4). As he’s leaving, they all “*kneel down on the beach together*” to say goodbye (v.5).

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Years later, in I Corinthians 14:3, the Apostle Paul would write that the 3 purposes of prophecy are for: ¹“*upbuilding*”, ²“*encouragement*” and ³“*comfort*.” Which of these 3 purposes do these prophetic warnings to Paul align with most?

Application Question: Have you given out or received a prophetic word from someone before? If so, how did it align with this Scripture?

DAY 2: A Prophetic Warning to Paul from the Prophet Agabus

READ: Acts 21:15-25

REFLECT: Next, they visit with one of the “original 7” Hellenistic Jews – Philip the Evangelist – from Acts Chapter 6. Luke mentions that Philip now has 4 daughters “*who prophesied*” (v. 9). A prophet in that city (Agabus) warns Paul what would happen to him in Jerusalem.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Re-read what Jesus prophesied to Ananias what would eventually happen to Paul in Acts 9:13-16. Do you think this chapter - Acts 21 - is a fulfillment of that prophecy from Jesus coming to a reality in Paul’s life? Why or why not?

Application Question: We assume that Paul was really encouraged by seeing Philip and the progress of his ministry after so many years. Have you been comforted by like-minded friends who encouraged you on your journey of faith? If so, how?

DAY 3: Paul Submits to the Counsel One of His Spiritual Leaders – The Apostle James in Jerusalem

READ: Acts 21:26-36

REFLECT: After arriving in Jerusalem, Paul re-unites with the Apostle James (one of Jesus’ brothers) who is the Pastor of the Church of Jerusalem. James urges Paul to make peace with the Jews in Jerusalem by taking a Nazarite Vow (see Numbers 6) which he does (v. 26).

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Hebrews 13:17 tells believers to, “*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls.*” What are some ways the Apostle Paul is demonstrating that in this passage?

Application Question: Who are some of your spiritual leaders today and what does Hebrews 13:17 say is part of their role in our lives?

DAY 4: Paul Endures Beatings and Arrest Yet Still Shares His Testimony with His Jewish Accusers

READ: Acts 21:37-40

REFLECT: Here in these passages we see all of the prophetic warnings coming to pass in Paul’s life. Yet, after being beaten so badly the Romans had to “*carry him*” (vs. 35). Paul asks to speak to his enemies in Hebrew – which was the native tongue of his accusers.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Although Paul knew many languages, he decides to speak to his accusers in Hebrew. Why do you think that was important?

Application Question: Sometimes people who don’t know the Lord may feel like we are talking to them in a “different language” when we use too many churchy words and phrases. What are some ways you can have conversations with family members and friends about Jesus in the way Paul did – by “speaking their own language?”
